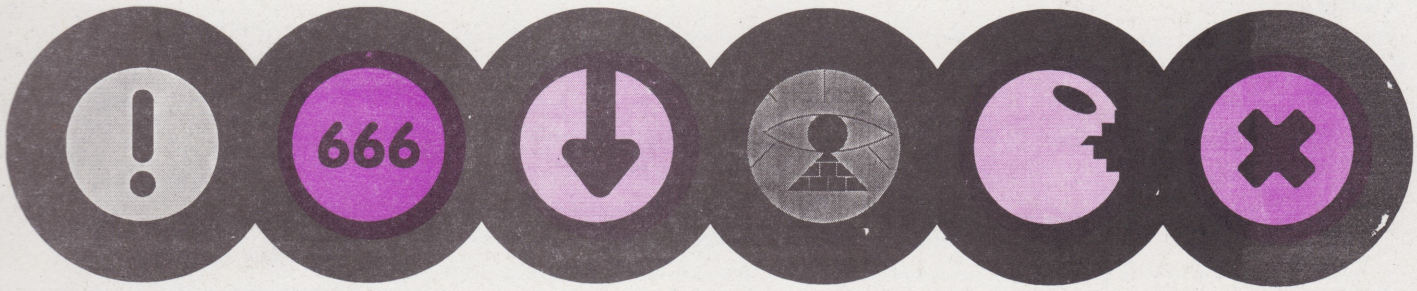
bristle

No. 18 Winter 2005

FIGHTING TALK FROM BRISTOL AND THE SOUTH WEST

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PERPARING FOR A POLICE STATE

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bristle is an alternative publication for Bristol and the South West aiming to provide a space and information for local groups and activists. Think locally, act globally, and vice versa. **bristle** invites everyone campaigning locally for different issues to send us your stuff. Contact us if you want to take part. **bristle** is self-funded, and any money made is invested in the magazine and other free-information activities. **bristle** is independent - we don't belong to any party, current or group. People writing for **bristle** don't necessarily agree with all the articles or content of the magazine. **bristle** is committed to creating an alternative media to the local and national brainwashers and manipulators. **bristle** is committed to the distribution of information and to creating revolution and an alternative to capitalism.

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Deadline for submissions to Issue 19:
end of February
See the website for details of how to submit articles

In memoriam of George Firsoff (Robins Greenwood Gang).
This issue is dedicated to:

- Yvette & Matt (well done!)
- Monica (hope you recover soon)
- Happy issue 100 to the Bristolian
- HB'day NJim!
- All the best down south, Andy
- Congratulations to Kebele on its 10th birthday
- See ya soon Lloyds!

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Editorial

Well, Santa must have thought we've all been very bad here at bristle, 'coz we didn't get the re-release of Band Aid in our stockings. But do we care? It was rubbish the first time round, but now things have got worse – and we're not just talking in musical talent terms, either! Because while they're droning on about "Feed the world", politicians and big business are still busy fucking over the world. No change there! Famine in Sudan, corporate feeding frenzy in Iraq – two sides of the same coin. Yes, the ruthless, genocidal occupation of Iraq continues and opposition is met with mass murder as punishment in places like Falluja, destroying the city in order to save it. We've heard all this before... and as the body count grows on all sides and dissent grows in the ranks, no wonder the army recruiters are struggling to meet their targets... And speaking of targets, we're all targets now, in the sights of the surveillance society currently being fortified by hysterical media and tyrannical government. You don't have to look far to see that their "War on Terror" means making people so scared and paranoid they'll buy all the latest lies, laws and control the government has to offer – and come back for more! With the threat of terrorism, you can justify anything... Welcome to the clampdown.

So, this issue's special is on social control, and with the constant barrage of new powers for the state, it's hard to know where to start. Anti-terrorist laws (first used on peace protestors!), forced deportations, ID cards, bugging, ASBOs)... the makers go told, to safe- nd freedom. trol is alive ol. We have n the council first in line, as ever, to try out the catch all new ASBO



Warning! Native Bristolians get naughtier at 40

laws, criminalising young people and doing nothing to solve the real problems. Cuts to corrupt councillors' salaries or cuts to services and social welfare? Decisions...decisions...(behind closed doors, of course!). Meanwhile refugees across the South West (facing poverty, imprisonment, torture and murder in their countries) remain under threat of deportation as the gates to fortress Europe slam shut in their faces. We're seeing the police gearing up (and tooling up) into a paramilitary force, alongside cynical "War on Drugs" style PR drives trying to convince us that we're "working together". And as always, there's one law for them, and another for you and me.

In the face of all this, it's easy to feel hopeless and fall back on cynicism as a response to the madness that surrounds us. This system can really wear you down, and fighting it can feel like banging your head against a ... copper's truncheon. Older activists get tired and move on, and it's easier to choose a quiet life and stay out of trouble. But there's always another wave (or trickle!) of people who refuse to live under control or accept the destruction as normal, and decide to step out of line and resist. There's endless ways we can find to fight for a better world, here and now. Revolt and Revolution can happen everyday (not postponed for some distant finale), in the way we organise and take action. Bristol has recently seen a healthy upsurge of interest in anti-capitalist and anarchist politics and a lot of people are making connections, recognising we're stronger together. There's not a week goes by without a benefit gig, a film night, a discussion, a picket, an action, a meeting or ten!...Add to this the millions of everyday individual acts of resistance we don't often hear about, and you can see why governments and bosses everywhere are desperately fighting to keep control. Maybe they realise that their days are numbered. What goes up, must come down...

Against all authority. Shut down the G8. For total liberation. Long live anarchy. bristle.

Leftism club night at the PorterButt, London Rd, Bath 17/12/04

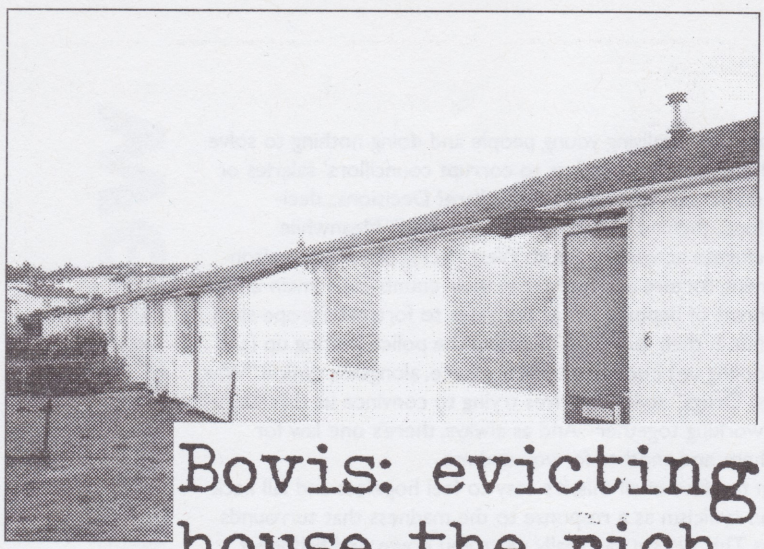
A big thanks to Leftism, Mike and the DJs who helped support bristle in raising cash for our next issue, and after a busy night on the info stall we pushed...wait for it...one mag. To the bloke who bought it, err...see you on the barricades.



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Bovis: evicting prefabs to house the rich

Recently a number of reports about greedy speculators and developers taking over community spaces have caused concern to many in East Bristol. The latest has concerned the 'community green space' at Packers' Field (Easton), which the council wants to hand over to the privately funded City Academy school to develop sports facilities, after a dodgy consultation led by even dodgier Labour councillor Moss. Nearby the historic chocolate factory is set to relocate, with a loss of local jobs and an uncertain future for the building. At the same time the community in Greenbank will lose its local sub-post office, whilst the Greenbank pub could become private luxury flats. Another case is the new development of yet more luxury flats in the area where a public building, the House of the Blind (Eastville), was. Local people opposed this when a new Lidl supermarket was planned.



Gatcombe Road, Hartcliffe

However the case of the eviction of prefabs in Speedwell and Saint George has been one of the most controversial. Many of the residents, who have been living there since the second world war, refused to be evicted. Many are too old to be relocated, and the community demanded more respect for them. The residents had also developed a strong sense of community over the years, and feared this would be lost with the new project.

After the eviction of some residents, the council could not rehouse them as it lacked the £26 million needed. In 2003 Bristol City Council adopted the Prefab Redevelopment Programme, and signed an agreement with construction multinational Bovis. Bovis is benefiting from building 310 private homes (on top of 330 flats)! The evicted residents were offered two-bedroom bungalows. However the amount of homes to be built will mean overcrowding the area. According to protesters, after checking the figures, the price of providing the homes would be £18,131,160, which is £8million short of the £26m quoted. So Bovis is even profiting from providing homes to the evicted residents. From public money!

Out of order – eviction of the homeless

Some community members requested the squatting of the bungalows as a way of resisting the Council's decision. One of them was squatted by homeless people. But when the police turned up 30 minutes later, their first move was to threaten the squatters with burglary charges. The squatters pointed out that the house had been empty (ie nothing to steal); that they got in through an open window; and that they have rights to remain in the property under Section 6 of the Criminal law Act (1977). The cops said they had permission from the Inspector to enter the house, and after giving one minute to leave, the SWAT team proceeded to smash in the door. The squatters exited through a window. Once outside, the cops relaxed a bit and just took their names. The police said that if it had happened somewhere else 'it wouldn't matter' – they should do it in St Paul's or Easton! However, according to the law, forced eviction of a squatted property is illegal.

In December another squatter was evicted in a similar manner. After being threatened with being walled up inside the house, he agreed to leave despite having the right to remain. Council workers and the police sitexed up the building up with all his property inside. The evicted squatter is still homeless trying to find another solution.



Filton Avenue

Bristol Council is responsible for the selling of community owned property, land and space to developers, and for the eviction of residents and squatters by force. The police are once again responsible for not respecting the laws and using force – Bristol style Babylon!

Seperated at birth...



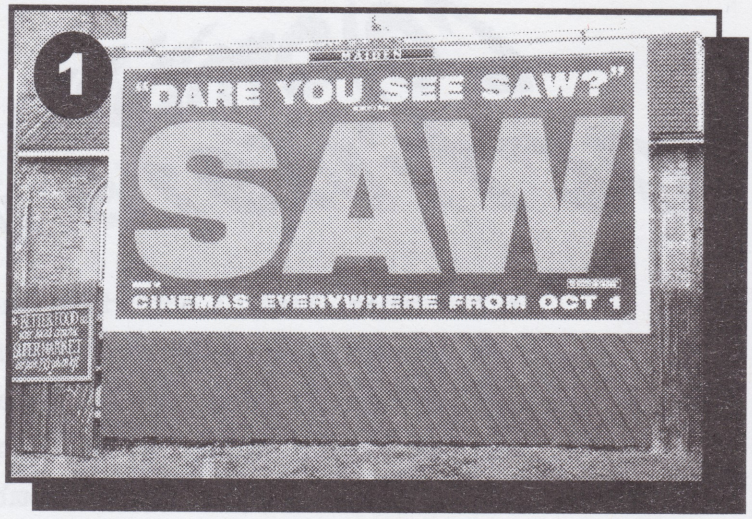
Mike Lowe: Editor, Evening Post

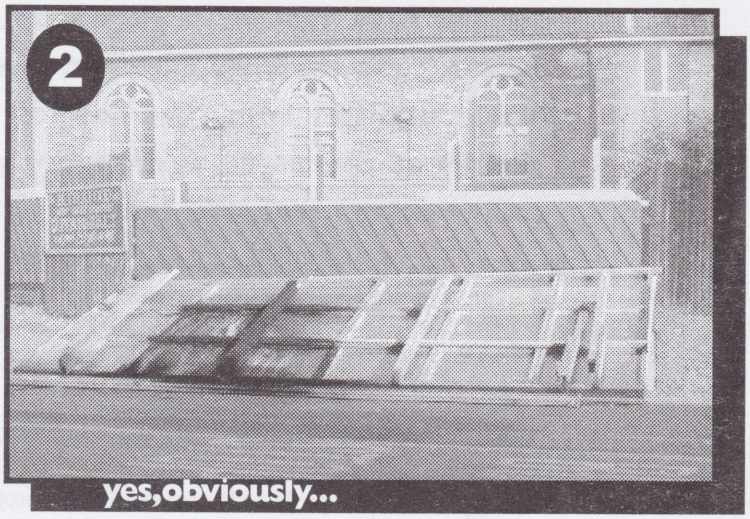


The Devils Advocate (Evening Post)

...or split personality?

Mike Lowe has been strangely camera-shy since well before The Bristolian came gunning for him, which is odd for an editor so keen to support the idea of 'naming and shaming' the guilty. His alter-ego, Mr Barry Beelzebub, aka The Devil's Advocate, is not at all publicity shy. He positively revels in his role as a snobbish, prejudiced country gent, with his provocatively offensive dislike of people from other regions, animal lovers, the working class, indeed anyone who doesn't fit his warped mindset. Given his racism it's a shocker the council hasn't ASBO'd him yet. We'd settle for chaining him to the kitchen sink at Kebele's Kafé for a month, and making him eat the vegan leftovers...once they're a few days old.





Recycling business: good for the environment, crap for workers

You may all remember strikes at the Eastville recycling site by the recycling workers two years ago. As a result, some goals were achieved, but as a result the company got transferred from Resourcesaver to the massive waste company ECT, based in London. Therefore, work rights deteriorated again with the new company moving to using temping agencies in order to get cheap labour. However, this is not the only reason: workers at the Eastville plant fought a bitter strike against their previous employers, well aware that the use of temping agencies is aimed at preventing political workers from being contracted. ECT is using the agencies Meridian and Randstad to get its workers. All recycling pickers and some drivers are employed this way (about 40% of staff is temp), while drivers and older staff are employed by the company. After a while, if the company is satisfied with the workers provided by Meridian, ECT may offer some of those casual workers contracts. As in any other company these workers have no right to strike or protest and no right to breaks; sometimes even the unloading of the trucks is considered as a break for the temping workers! They have no regular shifts and they work just when the temping agency calls them. Contracted workers work shift, while temping workers do it on an hourly basis: once they finish their run, contracted workers can leave, being paid for the days, while the temping ones lose their wage for that time. The usual strategy of setting workers against each other. Meridian charges ECT £12 per hour per worker, with the worker getting just £5 – what a rip off!

bristle has heard that workers at the Eastville site are considering fresh industrial action for the New Year. Let us know how we can support it.



March against violence against women, 25th Nov

This march organised by Bristol Indymedia marked the international day against violence against women. It started in the M32 roundabout, a place which many women try to avoid. That night women were there in force. The march went to the Cube Cinema where a series of events were organised: stalls by Greenleaf books, Al, a talk by two women from Nicaragua, another one by a member of Palestine Solidarity Campaign, on legallities regarding domestic abuse cases in the UK and to finish the night music by DJ Moist and visuals by VJ Anakissed.

Colombian hip-hop activists in Bristol

In November, Bristol activists had the honour of sharing experiences with community youth activists from the city of Cali in Colombia. Regular Bristle readers will remember that resistance in Colombia has been one of our themes. We have covered Plan Colombia, union resistance in SINTRAEMCALI and Afro-Colombian resistance on the Pacific coast . We now have another hugely inspiring example of resistance by young people from the most deprived areas of the main cities. Cali is known world wide for being the home of one of Colombia's cocaine cartels. It is a city of contrasts, where many people live in shanty towns with houses made out of cardboard boxes.

That's where the Zona Marginal lot are from, from District 14/16 Aguasblancas and Mojica 2 Comuna 15. And that's why they are called 'Zona Marginal'. Zona Marginal's talk, however, is not about their achievements as hip-hop stars. It's about their work with disaffected young people from communities where they often turn to gang violence, guns and drugs. It's about helping them to attempt to find defence and solutions to their shit.

Fernando, John and Ricardo each work on different projects: in the organisation Casa de Juventud (Youth House) Comuna 16, in the now closed radio Alternativa Stereo and from their recording studio providing equipment and promoting young rappers. They combine this community activism with their musical project Zona Marginal, where the three sing, make lyrics and music. ZM's lyrics are a reflection of the commitment and work that they do.

Their politics are clear from the outset. The problems young people face in the shanty towns is another consequence of imperialism, of the role of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Colombia, and United States' foreign policy in the guise of Plan Colombia. This pretends to fight narco-traffic while in reality protecting the USA's position and interests in the region and tying the Colombian governments' hands and policies with loans and funding. All this funding goes to the military, to weapons and equipment, but in the meantime people in the shanty towns have no electricity, running water, sanitation or proper housing. They lack libraries and schools. People from shanty towns have no jobs, no benefits and no voice - in many cases not even a passport. From their early years they become involved in criminal activity as a way of gaining respect, and access to goods. Many also join the paramilitaries, one of the few options that anyone who is born there has as a job. For ZM, the war on drugs is just a big set-up to hide the real problems facing Colombia: war, genocide, dependence, occupation, poverty, violence and the lack of alternatives.

Casa de la Juventud's work with these young people, though originally a council project, soon became independent, refusing any money from the corrupt government or the USA. CDLJ runs programmes on human rights, education and professional formation, co-operative projects and the promotion of arts. One of its goals is to provide qualifications for social cultural technicians. The people working there have credibility because of their commitment and political attitude, campaigning for human rights, supporting young people detained by the police, and giving legal advice. From there too they campaign to raise awareness about the state, repression and consumerism. The main rule is 'to work with people, not for people', something that local and national community projects should make note of. They also tackle discrimination and question official state education which remains Eurocentric and colonialist - Columbus is still considered the discoverer of America!



Alternative Stereo managed to compete with commercial stations, running daily programmes with political and community content. It included everything from children's programmes to campaigns and debates and was used for call-outs to marches. From Latin America protest music (Victor Jara, Mercedes Sosa, Pablo Milanés, etc) to Spanish hip-hop - 'not because we don't like English hip-hop', they clarified, 'but because people need to understand what the lyrics say'. Eventually it became so popular that the government started to put pressure upon the station, making arrests and seizing equipment. Finally, the project had to be closed because it could not afford a licence.

As Zona Marginal they were created in 1994 because its members faced a situation where there was no place to produce the music they liked and they found all such music was under the control of commercial labels. They created a studio which they make available to other young people. As a group they are also organised under a wider collective called CaliRAP Cartel. Their music reflects their political views. It has been spread all over Colombia (and beyond...) by people burning their CDs. (don't do this here - support them! Buy their CD from the Bristol Colombia Solidarity Campaign!).

People were just asking them to give a sample of their hip-hop when the caretaker knocked on the door to close down. They got up, introduced their number and got everyone making a base by clapping and a chorus: 'War here. War there. When is it gonna stop?' You can imagine what their rap was about. But we leave this and their following improvised performance for the review's section.

See back page for contacts for the Bristol Colombia Solidarity Campaign

www.colombiasolidarity.org.uk

Bristol Colombian Family Facing Deportation

On 25th November Colombian Virgilina ('Lina') Castaño, and her son Miguel, aged 8, were grabbed by police in Bristol for their deportation. They were released on 14th December. However their case was due in court again and they may still have been deported by the time you read this.

UK Immigration Officials and Police arrived at 6.00am. Lina was searched and forced to dress in front of a male police officer, while they made comments about the abuse of the immigration system by people like her. They were taken to the Oakington detention centre near Gatwick, where refugees facing deportation are held until their flight is arranged. The police also wanted her husband Luis Orozco Collazolos, but he was out when they called.

Luis and Lina fled Colombia, after Luis's brother and brother-in-law were killed by paramilitaries, because of their environmentalist activities. They are terrorised by the prospect of being returned. But the Home Office does not seem to think they face a real risk!

Their solicitor had been assured that there would be no detention or attempt at deportation, as Lina was attempting to make a first application in her own right. Apparently she had been impeded by Home Office officials from doing so by a series of delays and lies. Friends and activists in Bristol showed great solidarity in reacting and campaigning for the Orozcos. Let's hope that they are successful.

As we have seen from previous bristle articles, and in this issue, Colombian political asylum seekers deserve asylum, and support! The campaign on their behalf continues. For further info check:

www.andywatts.com/Lina&Miguel/



Bristol Sabs News

The newly formed Bristol sabs group has been out and about saving foxes with other sab folk in Wiltshire, much to the annoyance of the Avon Vale Fox Hunt! We even witnessed one of the Avon Vale's support get ridden down by a red-coat the other day, the kind of assault we like! We recently paid a visit to the Monmouth Fox Hunt and despite pro-hunt policing managed to save at least 2 foxes with around 20 other sabs.

Queer mutiny in Bristol!!!

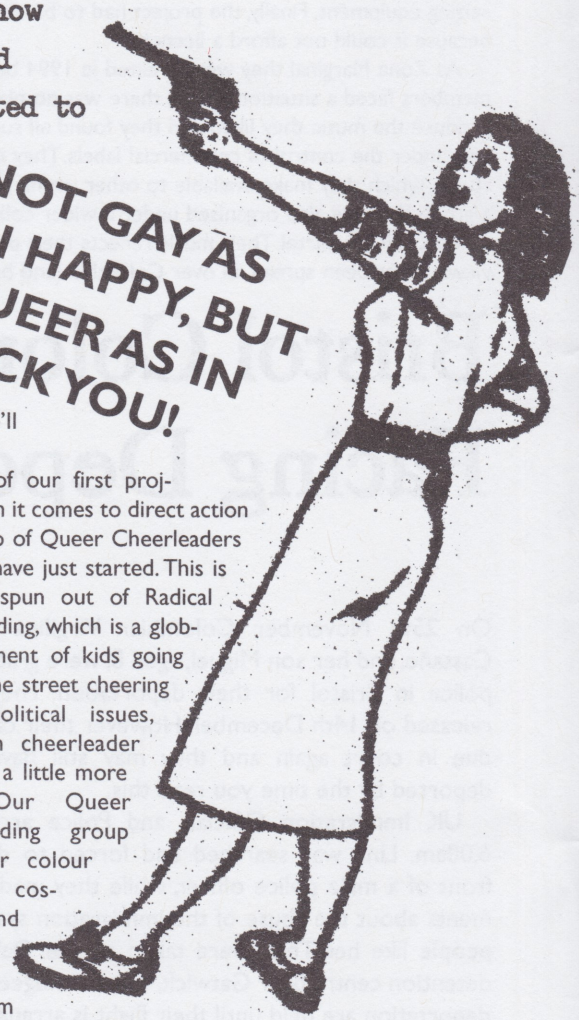
We're here, we're queer. And we're gonna let the world know it. We're gonna let the world know it with pom-poms and rhymes, and discussions and gigs. We have finally united to spread the word about queer and to raise awareness and acceptance and to demand equal rights.

A Queer Mutiny group has just started in Bristol. Queer is not synonymous with gay. Queer is about rejecting society's simplistic and limiting binary understanding of sexuality, as well as gender and sex. The binary is the idea of two. Of two opposites which stand in contrast to each other – you are allowed to be male or female, straight or gay (or bi, which is usually seen as another form of being gay), and you are allowed to be nothing else. We in the Queer Mutiny group think humans are much too vibrant and complex for narrow categories like these.

Most people seem to have a need to force others into categories and make sure they stay there. Those who deviate and slop over the boundaries are seen as weird, scary, disgusting; queer. But Queer Mutiny is about fighting for queerness. About having a more fluid view on gender, sex and sexuality. We refuse to be labelled, pinned down and restricted to these confining definitions. What we do and how we live is not determined by our genitals.

We will work in three different ways: we will take direct action, we will theorise and debate, and we will create a queer social space as an alternative to the limited gay scene.

There are no restrictions as to what we will do within these different fields. If anyone has a good idea about what to do, then we'll do it



One of our first projects when it comes to direct action is a group of Queer Cheerleaders that we have just started. This is an idea spun out of Radical Cheerleading, which is a global movement of kids going out on the street cheering about political issues, American cheerleader style but a little more crazy. Our Queer Cheerleading group will wear colour coded costumes and pom-poms and storm into queer-unfriendly places like gay bars, and mainstream places like shopping centres. We will cheer about queer and then leave some leaflets containing further information. There are a bunch of us in the group already, but we need more people!

When it comes to theorising and debating we will be arranging discussion groups and talks. We will have general discussion meetings where people can come along and talk about queerness and their take on it. We will also get speakers who specialise on a particular field of interest to come talk and feed their knowledge into the discussion.

Another thing we'll do is to create an alternative to Bristol's limited gay scene. We will put on gigs and club nights where no one will be judged or defined. We'll have fun. We'll be free. And we'll open the door to anyone who wants to come in.

These ways of working do not stand in opposition to each other and do not at all have to be separate.

The Bristol Queer Mutiny group works in a non-hierarchical, non-bureaucratic way. We are all in this together and everyone has their say. We who have joined the group so far are completely open for anyone to join in. We need and desperately want more people to join, so don't hesitate to contact us! Our e-mail address is:

queermutinybristol@yahoo.co.uk. See you soon...



BOOKS wanted for the Rilindje Fara Emire's anarchist library (Albania)

Contact Kebele – 0117 939 9469

bristle 18/6

PEACE, SEA DOG-STYLE



On Sunday the 29th of August, a scurvy fleet of buccaneers was spotted sailing through the hostile waters of deepest Bath centre: up to dastardly schemes no doubt. Were they making port for a night of rum-fuelled debauchery and wenching? By all accounts, not. Were they burying their ill-gotten treasure? By the skint emptiness of their wallets, no. Were they then raiding the fat merchant chain stores to redistribute capitalist wealth to the needy? Unfortunately not, either. In fact, they were the Peacenik Pirates, armed with witty shanties and leaflets, aiming to spread the message of peace and environmentalism to the populace: a Carnival For Peace!

Tentatively at first, they gathered around midday at the abbey churchyard, accompanied by a makeshift shopping-trolley galley filled to the brim with free cake. Numbers had quickly swollen to around 30-50 by the time the pedal-powered pirate ship sound-system rolled up, to much raucous applause! Several Jolly Rogers were flying, as piratic carnival-goers left sax music and chalked slogans in their wake. The fleet cruised through the town, dropping anchor outside McDonalds and HSBC, to expose the latter's dodgy dealings in occupied Iraq. Crew members handed out tips for eco-friendly living and the cartoon strip 'Adventures of Captain Peacenik' made its debute, Then it was up Milsom Street and George Street, shouting and 'A-haarrr'ing as they went – much to shoppers' bemusement. And when the rain started to pour, their spirits were still not dampened – although a third of their number did mysteriously vanish, round about the vicinity of the Porter…



The idea behind the day stemmed from a concern that the invasion of Iraq has begun falling from public attention, and also concern with the growing surrender of public spaces to profit-raking corporate intruders. So a coalition of individuals and local groups, including Friends of the Earth and the Stop the War Coalition, decided to form a festive attention-grabber, in solidarity with the anti-Bush actions in New York at the time. This was the first, but more will follow: early March '05, for starters.

The procession finished up at Victoria Park a couple hours later, with a picnic and 99 red balloons released. All in all, a small sum was raised for Amnesty International, and the real terrorists didn't walk the plank, but watch this space, coz the seed's now planted…

gig

P.A.I.N and POSITIVE VIBRATION SOUND SYSTEM

Porter Butt Pub, London Rd, Bath – Sept 3rd 2004



This was a benefit for bristle. Lots of people had pulled together for this one, whether providing equipment, running the information stall or simply coming along to support us. The music was of blood, black reared. Positive Vibration Sound System opened up the night seeping up spinal columns, with a steady pulse, slipping into sinus rhythm. People loosened up, alcohol splashed behind eyeballs, it was a perfect slow infusion...before the bolus of P.A.I.N. It was a powerful two hour set, people leapt and danced, to a wall of bass beat, punctuated by licks of Ska and bursts of political CAMP.A.I.N. This was the Propaganda and Information Network, crying across the nation and rightly so. Their words rang true " We all have to stick together, if there's going to be any change for the better". As you know bristle adheres to this principle. (A big thanks goes out from bristle to P.A.I.N, Bjorn and Mannanu from P.V.S.S.and to all the punters who dug deep into their pockets to help pay for this very issue).



Ty Church

You know your protesting and campaigning is having a real impact when big business offers a £25 million reward and the Government changes the law to try and stop you!

Text: Jo / Photos: Ray

Stamping down on animal rights protest



Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) is having great success – with a lot of public support - in campaigns to stop pointless and cruel animal experiments. SHAC's target is Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) and anyone who works with them. HLS is Europe's largest contract animal testing laboratory, with about 70,000 animals on site. HLS have been infiltrated and exposed a number of times in recent years. Each time horrific evidence of animal abuse and staff incompetence has been uncovered, including workers punching beagle puppies in the face.

Other recent successes include the campaign against the building of a new primate experiment lab in Cambridge. Even though the Government cynically overruled the two planning decisions against this lab, the campaign has been successful (up to now) in that Cambridge University have withdrawn their plans.

Bristol, Bath and other local animal rights groups have been involved in all of this, travelling up to Cambridge and Huntingdon for demos, and also doing some 'home visits' to employees of labs as part of SHAC action days.

But the backlash has begun! As well as the media colluding with big business to label the activists 'terrorists', a steering committee of six leading businessmen has been formed to combat protests, with a fund of £25 million for cash rewards leading to convictions!

The Government too has responded, anxious to reassure investors that these kinds of companies can continue to get away with their cruelty and dodgy science.

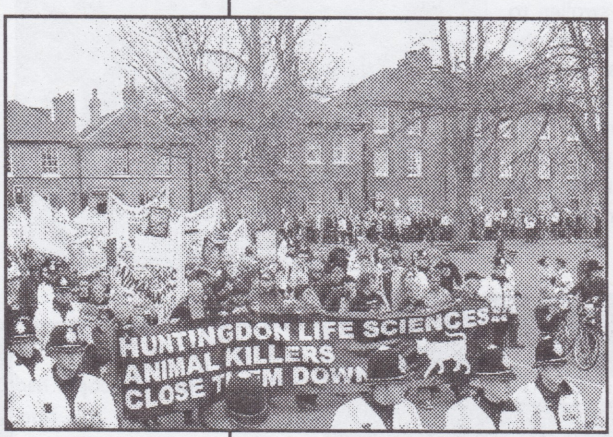
The Government has made changes to the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Section 42 gives police a new power to direct protestors away from homes where such protests may cause 'harassment, alarm or distress'. If a protestor fails to obey this direction it's an offence. The Government is proposing to strengthen this by making it an arrestable offence to protest outside homes in such a way that causes 'harassment alarm or distress to residents'. People deemed to have done this may be arrested there and then, or later, if protestors have moved on by the time police arrive – which is usually the plan!

Anyone who's been on a few demos or been huntsabbing will realise that the police on the ground will be making their own judgements about what might be causing 'alarm or distress'! They'll use this to threaten arrest for just about anything they want, especially as the vivisectors or whoever the protest is aimed at will just be able to say that they're distressed.

In effect, the police could easily stop even the most quiet and polite of protests in residential areas. This won't be just animal rights protests, but any protests.

Another planned amendment to Section 42 is 'to make it an offence for a person subject to a direction to return to the vicinity of the premises within three months'. Not that you could return that often anyway because of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. Section 2 of this makes it a criminal offence for a person to 'pursue a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another and which that person knows amounts to harassment of the other'. The Government is proposing to strengthen this Act by in effect allowing a company to be the victim of this 'harassment'. Harassment may be of 'two or more people who are connected (e.g. employees of the same company)' - even if each individual person is 'harassed' on only one occasion!

Even under the current form of the Act, companies such as Asahi Glass, Daiichi and Yamanouchi have obtained High Court injunctions against four named SHAC activists plus the Animal Liberation Front and the Animal Rights Militia from harassing employees of the companies. Protests at the companies' offices are allowed, but only once a week, giving the Police advance notice, and with no megaphones and no more than 12 people! (SHAC reports that Japanese customers are now responsible for 20% of HLS's income. The distressing details of HLS's work for these companies are on the SHAC website.) Oxford University have recently served injunction papers on another campaigning group, SPEAK, seeking to stop protests against a new primate vivisection centre the University wants to build.



Two changes have already come into effect on 20th January 2004. The definition of public assembly in Section 16 of the Public Order Act 1986 was amended from an assembly consisting of 20 or more persons to two or more per-

sons. Two people! This change is apparently because sneaky animal rights people 'commonly ensured they demonstrated in numbers of 19 or less'! Also, the offence of aggravated trespass in Section 68 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 was extended to cover trespass in buildings. This seems specifically targeted at the SHAC tactic of loud visits/protests at the offices of businesses with links to animal torturers such as HLS.

Yet another recent change in legislation means that courts can now impose an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) upon convicting an offender for any criminal offence. Breach of an ASBO is itself a criminal offence. The Government have stated that 'The Police are working with the CPS [Crown Prosecution Service] on the use of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) in respect of animal rights extremists.'

One HLS protestor recently convicted for a public order offence was made the subject of an ASBO which prevents him from going within a mile of HLS for three years. Another is banned from entering Cambridgeshire or contacting anyone associated with HLS for three years.

The Government reports that these changes are working: 'From January to April 2004 there have been 24 arrests for breaches of Section 14 of the Public Order Act 1986 and 11 arrests for the amended offence of aggravated trespass in buildings. In total, in the first six months of 2004 there were 140 animal rights activists either arrested or reported compared with only 34 over the same period in 2003.'

However SHAC, Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs, SPEAK and other groups do not seem even slightly put off by these changes in legislation. Greg Avery of SHAC predicts instead that measures to stop open protests will mean changes of tactics (such as switching to demonstrations against suppliers rather than directly against companies who have taken out injunctions) and to people adopting more extreme tactics.

'All these companies should do, all the government should do is look back through history, look at South Africa. The more you clamp down on movements the less likely you are to get rid of them. It just makes them more aggressive, it makes people in the movement very angry, it sends a lot of people underground. It inflames the whole situation.'

In the first nine months of 2004, more than 60 companies with links to HLS have ended those links. Inspiring demo reports continue to appear on the SHAC website with a high frequency and it's clear that SHAC and its supporters will never give up until Huntingdon Life Sciences is closed. As Greg puts it, "I won't give up until I die."

Further information:

www.welcome.to/shac
http://www.speakcampaigns.org.uk/
http://vivisection-absurd.org.uk/

Bristol Animal Rights Network
Box 53, Greenleaf Bookshop,
82 Colston St., Bristol BS1 5BB

Bath Animal Action
bathanimalaction@yahoo.co.uk
PO Box 426, Bath, BA1 2ZD

TOWPATH TEA PARTY

Foul play is afoot in Bath. Looming in Bath and North-East Somerset Council's current transport appraisal is a proposal to build an A36/A46 link road. This is the same jurassic quick-fix that was first tossed about by the Powers That Be back in 1990, when a rejection at a public enquiry finished it off.



Little has changed since then. The planned road will still cut right through a protected Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – the Avon and Lympley Stoke Valley – and it will still generate more traffic, more noise and more pollution in the area. Above all it will still not, as B&NES Council claim, solve the congestion problems in Bath's London Road and Cleveland Bridge areas. The fact is, a ban on HGV through-traffic in the city will sort that problem out a hell of a lot better.

So, with this in mind, a bunch of us respectable citizens headed out to the George at Bathampton on the blistering hot Sunday afternoon of 5th September, to see the road's proposed route for ourselves. There was an impressive turnout and, after the opening press photoshoot, the guided walk began: led by a veteran of the 1990's anti-road campaigns. The route took us from Mill Lane, overlooking the planned junction, through Bathampton Meadows, and along the towpath to where the road would rise some 20/30 metres above the canal. At this point, us sweltering walkers joined a flotilla of canal boats. The canal folk served up a much-needed picnic of tea and cake (how British, what!). Refreshed and recharged, we then started on up the old tram track to Bathampton Down, where we enjoyed breath-taking views of the whole valley.

The walk lasted a couple of hours, and mainly served as an introductory awareness boost for the issue. With the two current A-roads, Bath has already conceded more than enough of our wild spaces. Though the new road is still only a theoretical proposal, we need to stop this development now, long before the JCBs come calling… For info about the upcoming public consultation and updates, e-mail Chris at Bath Cycle Campaign, which was launched in September. Regular meetings take place on the third Monday of each month, upstairs at the Rummer (Grand Parade), 7.30pm. A number of campaigning activities are being planned. To join the email list, send a blank email to

Bath-Cycling-Campaign-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk.

Solidarity work in Palestine

Given the extraordinary events before and after the death of Yasser Arafat, it is easy to forget the horrific reality of the day to day lives of ordinary Palestinians, living as they do in a virtual apartheid police state. The solidarity work of groups such as the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) can be vital to their very survival. Bristol's MARGARET JONES spent time there in Autumn 2004.

It was hard not to feel like a lot of hobbits freshly out of the Shire. I'd been to Israel twice before, but never been subjected to this sort of thing. The seven of us had our bags minutely searched, as well as our shoes, and the soles of our feet followed by several hours of questioning for two of us. Finally - and to our great surprise - they let us in! We were free to go find the ISM.

With 14 other people of diverse ages and nationalities, we learned from mainly Palestinian trainers about non-violent direct action on an intensive two-day course. We also learned about our rights under Israeli law (and about the apartheid system of justice that denies these rights to Palestinians) about media work, and the culture and politics of Palestine.

Training done, we all went to Tulkarem, a small market town near the border with Israel. At the ISM flat, we were greeted by a likeable young Irishman, and by the resident cat, Push-Push - who lived up to her name by getting into our bedroom at night - and sometimes into the fridge. Just down the street from us, a ring of stones marked the place where a young man had been gunned down by Israeli soldiers only days before - a grim reminder, if we needed one, that we were now deep in occupied Palestine. Every night the army came in and threw sound bombs, or arrested someone.

Other signs this place was not as normal as it appeared on the surface: the boarded-up cinemas, the bullet-pocked public buildings - and the incredibly low price of vegetables. In Tulkarem people can no longer access their usual markets through the checkpoints. They're reduced to selling tomatoes to each other. A disturbing sense, here, of a community being slowly throttled. An air of quiet desperation.

We found plenty to do in Tulkarem. We took photos. We visited two kindergartens, and a Red Crescent hospital. We met a wonderful doctor, who had trained in Italy, but had come back to Tulkarem to work. "If I sat in Italy and watched on television what's happening in Palestine, I couldn't live with myself." In spite of all the tragedy and gloom, such people give one faith in the human spirit.

The dividing wall

Several days running, we caught the bus to outlying villages, to see for ourselves the effects of the separation Wall. Our job was to meet local farmers, and see if they wanted ISM helpers during the coming olive harvest in October.

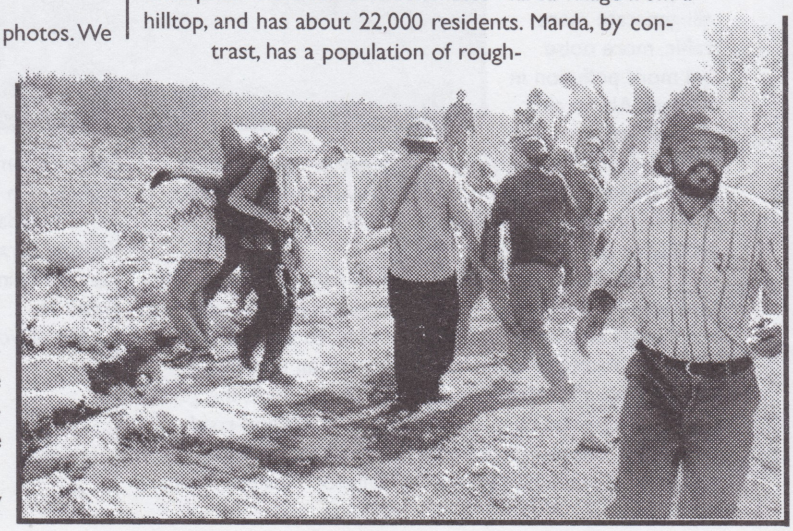
We visited Naslit Issa, where a large family house has actually become part of the Wall. The army are permanently camped on the house roof, with the family still living underneath. Villagers in this and neighbouring communities have to travel to Jerusalem, over 30 kilometres away, and drive back, up the Israel side of the Wall, to visit relatives who live only a few yards away.

Only 11% of the Wall actually follows the Green Line border of Israel, as it was established in 1948. The rest cuts deep into Palestinian territory, scooping out chunks of fertile land. The little town of Jabara is even having its own mini-wall built all the way around it. To keep terrorists from going to Israel? I don't think so. Along with the system of checkpoints that can hold up traffic for hours, or even days, the Wall is slowly but surely strangling commerce and agriculture.

We went to interview a nineteen-year-old woman who had just come back that day, from a year in prison. She told us of beatings of women prisoners, and of cockroaches in the food. She said the August hunger strike had helped secure a few concessions for the prisoners – an end to the strip searches, shelter from the sun in the exercise yard, and some concessions regarding visits (still harshly restricted, though). She seemed so self-possessed and matter-of-fact, as she told her story. As in other Palestinian towns under occupation, nearly every family in Tulkarem has a member in prison.

Army repression in Marda

We took it in turns to stay a few days in a little village overshadowed by Ariel - the largest illegal Jewish settlement in Occupied Palestine. Ariel dominates Marda village from a hilltop, and has about 22,000 residents. Marda, by contrast, has a population of rough-



ly 2,000. Soldiers had come into the village and cut down someone's olive grove. They arrested and beat young men, apparently at random.

Incredible as it may seem, when a group of Internationals came and stayed in Marda for a few nights, the harassment gradually ceased. (We can only think the soldiers didn't want foreign observers to see them behaving badly.) Residents commented on this gratefully. They didn't want us to go. Several said that the moment Internationals left, their problems would begin again. And so, as we heard later, it proved. The day we were gone, soldiers came in throwing sound bombs.

We felt bad about going. But there was more urgent need elsewhere. So we left this idyllic, pretty place of olive trees and quiet lanes with the new red roofs of the settlement hovering above it like a bird of prey. Back to Tulkarem.

Concessions won in Budrus

Encouraging news came from the little village of Budrus, where a combination of legal challenges and non-violent direct action by villagers and Internationals had obliged Israel to give back some land taken by the Wall. Other Internationals told of witnessing the signing of an agreement between the local Israeli occupation army commander, and the village notables. A historic event!

The day before we left Palestine some of us demonstrated against the Wall at Al-Ram, near Jerusalem, with dozens of secondary school children, all in uniform. The Wall has cut them off from their school, which has been forced to close down as a result. The Israeli peace group Gush Shalom arrived, with their anti-Wall slogans. It was a very quiet demonstration. At the very end, some young lads threw stones, and the Israeli border police threw sound bombs. The confrontation was over in minutes. But it was still the thing that caught the fancy of the Palestinian press, and the papers the following day were full of it. Same media, the world over!

Everyone in our group feels changed and sobered by what we witnessed in Palestine. All of us know the importance of encouraging others to go there. To break down the terrible isolation Palestinians under occupation often speak about - and to support people whose homes and livelihoods are threatened directly.

It really isn't so hard to go to Israel/Palestine. Anyone who's reasonably together, and who has ever: (a) gone camping, (b) been to a demonstration, (c) slept on a mattress on a floor, (d) gone on a train to Scotland or (e) spent a week in Benidorm, can do it! There are mobilisations and actions all year round. All are welcomed by Palestinians.

If you're interested in going check out www.palsolidarity.org or speak to Margaret direct on (0117) 946 6885.

By Mirian & Alan

In late October/ early November 2004 we visited the West Bank to help with the Palestinian olive harvest. The olive crop is an essential part of the Palestinian economy (up to 19% of agricultural output) and 2004 was scheduled to be a peak harvest. Palestinians, via the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), had put out an appeal for internationals to help with the harvest, as the presence of internationals can often – although not always – mean that the farmers are allowed to access their land, unimpeded.

Palestinian farmers often face harassment and violence from the growing number of illegal Israeli settlers in the West Bank. The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) is obligated to protect the farmers but often restricts protection to a small number of days during the picking season. There have been many instances of crop theft, harassment and physical (at times fatal) attack by Israeli settlers. The IDF have been the principal agent in the destruction of over 221,000 olive trees since the start of the second Intifada (uprising) in 2000. The excuse is usually "security reasons".

Worse still, the construction of the separation wall (aka the Apartheid or Annexation Wall) has meant that many farmers are now cut off from their land. Access permits are usually only granted to the head of the family - one elderly person – and they are not allowed to take any helpers with them. Even then they are often denied access "for security reasons". Palestinian roads near settlements are blocked with earth mounds and checkpoints meaning that Palestinians' free movement around the West Bank is prevented. Short distances can take several hours to travel. Vehicles including buses and ambulances are routinely stopped and the drivers and passengers humiliated. Many sick people and women in labour have died waiting at checkpoints.

Our group of 12 internationals was lucky enough to stay with a Palestinian family near Tulkarm for three days and pick olives without any interference from settlers or soldiers. The family insisted on packing us a huge picnic for the fields – even though they were fasting during Ramadan themselves - and every night we shared the family meal (great food!). The other internationals became involved in an incident during which they had shots fired at them and witnessed a raid on a mosque and a house during which two teenage boys were arrested as an act of collective punishment. Journalists later told the group that their presence had almost certainly prevented loss of life.



Winnowing olives

We met a great many people during our two and a bit weeks and found the Palestinians to be dignified, peaceful and determined, often with a brilliant sense of humour. There was an absence of whingeing which to us seemed incredible in the circumstances. Few Palestinians have not been marked by tragedy: family members killed, imprisoned, tortured or exiled. Most have lost at least some if not all of their land. Many people have had their houses bombed or blown up.

We also took part in the 47th non-violent demonstration against the Wall in the village of Budrus, near Ramallah. Despite beatings, arrests and one killing, the village has managed to claw back a significant portion of their stolen land and divert the course of the wall. Forty internationals, including several Israelis, joined the protest, which was driven back by tear gas, sound bombs, beating of Palestinians and threats to shoot. When the small boys started to throw stones, the border police started to shoot at them. We were able to impede the soldiers by following them around telling them not to shoot children. Most of the Israelis were targeted for arrest. Not a success, then but at least nobody got badly hurt or killed this time.

We came home determined to share what we have seen. We are giving talks and are in the process of setting up links between schools in Bristol and Tulkarm. Our resolution not to moan about little things didn't last very long, of course!

Palestinian joke:
Q: Why is Palestine bigger than Russia?
A: Because it takes longer to travel between Palestinian cities than between Russian ones...

DISSENT! G8 NETWORK OF RESISTANCE

This year, 2005, will be a busy time in the UK for the political elite and the corporate capitalists and killers, and for us, the lied to, over-taxed, stressed out, pissed off, majority. There'll be the ongoing slaughter and mayhem in the Middle East, as both 'our' boys and girls recruited as cannon-fodder, and the unfortunate people caught in the crossfire, get blown to smithereens. There is the UK presidency of the EU, a UK general election, and it is the UK's turn to host the G8 for the year, with the showpiece G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, from 6 to 8 July, to be opened by whichever liar happens to be PM at the time.

The G8 R Eight

by @ clusters

So what are we going to do? The politicians and bosses very much hope that we'll do what they want us to do. Namely, trot dutifully to the polling station on election day; confine any of our protests to polite letters to MPs, and polite marches from A to B, which they can politely ignore; maybe donate some money to the latest charity fundraising campaign that they fully endorse, or course, in their ever so caring way. Because according to them, things are as they are, and cannot be any different. Don't worry about the state of the world, because they are doing their best to sort it out for us. And it is all so very complicated, so we shouldn't worry our pretty little heads trying to understand how it all works, never mind trying to change anything. Yes of course they are listening to our concerns, this is a democracy after all, that is why we elected them, to run it for us.

> "To put it blundy, capitalism kills much faster and in greater numbers than any suicide bomber or tin-pot dictator"

What they don't want us to do is think and act for ourselves, because they are terrified that we will see though their bullshit. That is why so much time, effort, and money, is spent by the politicians, the media, the corporations, the ruling class, the capitalists - to keep us confused, keep us inactive, keep us blaming each other, keep us believing that we cannot do anything about it, and above all to keep us under control.

But despite their best attempts, people are questioning the status quo, are taking action for better lives and a better world, are resisting their wars and new forms of control. In Bristol and the south west alone there are many individuals, groups, collectives, campaigns and networks doing this every day. Throughout 2005 and beyond we have the ideal opportunity to take our alternative ideas and dreams and ways of doing things out to a much wider audience. To demonstrate that change is possible, and that there is an alternative; to involve ever greater numbers of people in our actions and activities.

In the final analysis, our rulers are tiny in number. Who does all the donkey work for them? Who keeps everything ticking over? We do! Who has the numbers, and the real power? We do! This magazine is a modest attempt at providing an alternative viewpoint and information for action, along with news of local resistance and actions. The bulk of this article looks at what the G8 is, how it attempts to control world events, and ways in which it is & can be resisted. So know the enemy, and get stuck in. Read on (and see boxout below for further info resources).



The G what?

G6, G7, G8, G20, G23, G...whatever, and not a g-spot in sight, although the summits are pretty orgasmic for the shakers, makers & bankers present, as they calculate the profits to be made from the rest of the world.

G8 stands for 'Group of eight major industrial democracies', although not necessarily the 8 richest countries in the world, nor the most democratic! (see box). Its aim is to deal with the major economic & political issues of the day, to ensure a growing global economy, and increasing global profits - or macroeconomic management to those in the know.

Info/resources

G8 info centre - www.g7.utoronto.ca/
IFI Watch - www.IFIwatchnet.org
Jubilee Research - www.jubilee2000uk.org/
World Development Movement - www.wdm.org.uk/
Anti-G8 2005 - www.dissent.org.uk
Schnews - www.schnews.org.uk
Indymedia - http://indymedia.org.uk/ & http://bristol.indymedia.org/

bristle 18/12

We Are Everywhere!

In essence, the management of capitalism, or more bluntly, global rule - on behalf of the corporations.

The G8 has no HQ, offices, constitution, rulebook, nor legal standing. It is an ad hoc club for the world's ruling elite. The G20 is a sweetener to other important nations, and includes the next 11 most economically powerful and/or strategically important nations, for obvious reasons. China, India, Argentina, Brazil & Saudi Arabia are in this group. China and India are the likely next additions to the G8, purely because of their economic power and growth.

How does the G8 work?

The G8 has the one annual showpiece summit located somewhere in the host nation - Gleneagles in the UK in 2005. Each member takes it in turn to host the G8 for a year. Confusingly the G8 has a ninth member, the EU, but as it represents a 25-country bloc it cannot have host status. The host to a degree dictates the agenda. Blair is focusing on Africa (hence his Commission to Africa), climate change, and sustainability. The Middle East, China and states in the former Soviet Union will be high on the agenda too.

All year round ministers & advisers from the G8 meet, with reps from other countries it wants to influence, in attempts to smooth and calm political and economic crisis, and keep the global economy flowing & growing. Essentially it impresses on everyone that it is in everyone's best interests, to do what the G8 says. Simple as that, probably best summed up as the 'carrot and stick approach'.

The G8 operates, like an unseen hand, through the IMF (International Monetary Fund), WB (World Bank, or International Bank for Reconstruction & Development), & WTO (World Trade organisation). These three bodies, unlike the G8, are recognised legal institutions, having been forced upon the rest of the world mainly by the economic & military power of the US government and its corporate string-pullers. So whilst the G8 does the politicking & outline policy forming, the IMF, WB, WTO, and of course the UN, are its enforcers, and also its cash collectors. Their 'carrot' is aid, debt relief, investment, expertise, military & logistical support; their 'stick' is loans, debt collection, trade agreements (and barriers & tariffs), economic restructuring, political & military intervention, famine & disease.

Isn't G for globalisation too?

Globalisation means the rule of the market economy via the removal of barriers to free trade and the closer integration of national economies, which is what the corporations, G8 and their enforcers want. And it has worked, the top 20% have got incredibly richer, the top 10% even more so. The rich/poor divide in the west, and the global north/south divide, has been accentuated.

The G8 & globalisation in practical terms means opening up every sector of a nation's economy to the market economy: privatisation of the public sector, welfare state, transport networks, utilities (gas, water, leccy); the casualisation of labour through insecurity, short-term contracts, and union bashing; cutbacks in benefits in value terms and through increased inaccessibility; manipulation of peoples savings & pensions funds through speculation; the movement of finance, investment & jobs to wherever labour is cheaper & profits greater; the exploitation of the developing worlds resources & labour markets; aggressive foreign intervention and where necessary invasion; and of course the war in Iraq and the war on terror.



Here comes the opposition!

People in developing countries (the third world, the global south) have been organising and taking direct action against the devastating effects of globalisation for decades now, just as they did before against colonialisation and blatant imperialism. The G8 and its enforcers seem to believe that if there's no pain for the majority, then there'll be no gain. For people in the developing world it's been all pain, with only their own tiny ruling elites and foreign investors benefiting. Famine, disease, wars, poverty - thanks to globalisation. To put it bluntly, capitalism kills much faster and in greater numbers than any suicide bomber or tin-pot dictator. You wont read that in the western media, nor will you read that the opposition grows daily. Throughout central & south America, Asia and Africa, Europe, North America, and even Bristol, there are growing social movements resisting the attacks of globalisation & state repression - through land & property squatting & redistribution, factory occupations, self-management & education, wildcat & general strikes, co-operatives & collectives, autonomous zones, self-management, carnival, and uprisings - resistance on a daily basis.

Resistance & recuperation

The media would have it that the badly named anti-globalisation movement emerged at the Seattle WTO summit in 1999; they may give a nod to the PGA inspired Carnival Against Capitalism on J18 that same year; they sometimes acknowledge the 50,000 anti-debt campaigners and Reclaim the Streets protesters who converged on the G8 summit in Birmingham in 1998. They may even mention the Zapatista uprising in south Mexico in 1994, but they will never inform you in the proper context of the world-

Bristol Dissent Group

The Bristol group exists to provide local info on and resistance to the G8 and to highlight the alternatives. Meetings, counter information, a host of direct action, street theatre, benefits & social events will be coming your way. Get involved - DIY. Bristol Dissent Group meets on the last Tuesday of each month, 7.30pm, Kebele, 14 Robertson Rd, Easton, BS5

Email: dissentbristol@subsection.org.uk

Discussion list: http://lists.aktivix.org/mailman/listinfo/dissent-bristol

Post: Dissent, Box 102, Greenleaf Books, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB

Web: www.dissent.org.uk

The G8 R Eight We Are Everywhere!

(continued)

DISSENT!G8
NETWORK OF RESISTANCE AGAINST THE

wide resistance.

The fact is, our resistance, our presence in the west at just about every G8, WTO, IMF, WB, EU, UN, NATO summit since 1998, has forced these capitalist institutions into the public eye and put them on the back foot. Violent protests, a variety of social movements, and imaginative acts of dissent have captured news headlines and brought these organs of exploitation & control into western public consciousness, and given heart to our brothers & sisters in the developing world struggling anonymously for their lives - they are not alone.

"Feed the world – while the G8 keeps bombing & killing?"

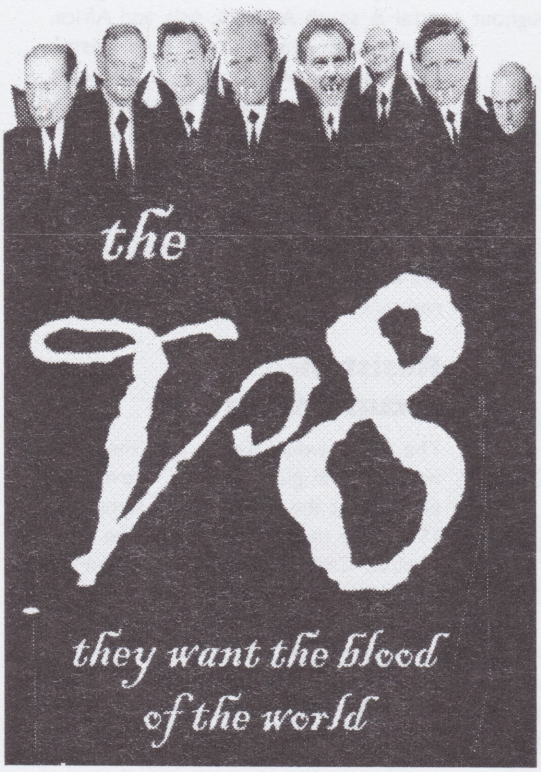
Now these institutions have on their agendas debt relief & even cancellation; increased aid; the treatment of HIV/aids and other diseases; human rights & repressive regimes (in the developing world); sustainability; even climate change. Sadly, they do this as part of the process of recuperation, of buying off the reformers and 'responsible' campaigners, such as the NGO's (non-governmental organisations) and celebrities such as Geldof & Bono, in exchange for their ultimate complicity in a system that exists to make money for the few - capitalism.

Make no mistake about it, the politicians & theoreticians of the capitalist class are not stupid. They will appease and use these reformists and well-meaning types to help them coerce and mould the developing world to meet their own ends. With a veneer of democracy, manageable debt, a healthier workforce, a growing economy, and access to natural resources - it is just what capitalism needs from the developing world to continue to expand and profit.

Dissent! in 2005

A new network has evolved in the UK, with a local group in Bristol: Dissent - a network of resistance against the G8. Explicitly anti-capitalist and adhering organisationally & politically to the PGA Hallmarks (see boxes), Dissent aims to be an ongoing vehicle for those seeking more than electoral change, reformism and opportunistic sloganeering. It does not ask for anything from the capitalist class. It will seek to disrupt and stop the Gleneagles G8 summit. It respects the actions of others across the full spectrum of resistance, and seeks constructive dialogue with them. It means acting now to change our lives now, on a daily basis - our only limits are our imagination. Every act of daily resistance and creativity on our parts, however small, sows a seed for greater things to come, and gives us a glimpse of a possible future world - a world based not on greed, profit, exploitation & repression; but on solidarity, mutual aid, direct collective action, peace and environmental harmony. Our resistance is as global as capitalism – **LET'S GET STUCK IN!**

"You cannot fit our dreams in a ballot box"





PGA hallmarks

1. A very clear rejection of capitalism, imperialism and feudalism; all trade agreements, institutions and governments that promote destructive globalisation.
2. We reject all forms and systems of domination and discrimination including, but not limited to, patriarchy, racism and religious fundamentalism of all creeds. We embrace the full dignity of all human beings.
3. A confrontational attitude, since we do not think that lobbying can have a major impact in such biased and undemocratic organisations, in which transnational capital is the only real policy-maker;
4. A call to direct action and civil disobedience, support for social movements' struggles, advocating forms of resistance which maximise respect for life and oppressed peoples' rights, as well as the construction of local alternatives to global capitalism.
5. An organisational philosophy based on decentralisation and autonomy.

These are not rules or a fixed definition but rather a philosophy to help bring together those that want to work together in a similar way. (PGA stands for 'Peoples Global Action' - see www.agp.org).

Who's in the G8? Know your enemy!

1975 – US, UK, France, Italy, Germany, Japan
1976 – Canada
1998 – Russia (observer since 1991)
Plus the EU has attended since 1977

FEAR & LOATHING

SOCIAL CONTROL IN THE UK 2005

The last couple of years has seen increasing media hysteria, well spun by NewLabour, around the twin evils of terrorism and anti-social behaviour. Together they represent the enemy without, and the enemy within - both genuine 24-hour a day threats to the British way of life and our peace and security. Or do they?

Since NewLabour came to power in 1997 they have enacted over 600 new laws. The Tories accuse NewLabour of re-creating the 'nanny state', although the only measures they oppose are those that may restrain the excesses of big business. When it comes to state control, the Tories are only too happy to fall in line, indeed they are in competition to out do each other. Both parties whip up hysteria over the terrorist threat, and use it to justify an ever greater erosion of civil liberties, including internment without trial and other measures via various anti-terror legislation. Listening to them you would think Britain was faced with daily terrorist attacks, when in fact there have been none. Their latest, much trumpeted measure is biometric ID cards, because apparently no terrorist can operate without one. But they won't be fully available for another 6–8 years!

On the home front, they insinuate that anti-social behaviour threatens the very fabric of our society, that we are all prisoners in our own homes, and have brought in ever increasingly repressive measures designed to curb freedom of movement and any behaviours that do not fit their pre-ordained norm – ASBO's, dispersal orders, city-centre exclusion zones and the like. On the one hand NewLabour claim to have reduced crime, on the other they claim we are about to be over-run by teenagers. In effect they are trying to impose from above a sense of community upon communities that their previous policies have destroyed, whilst at the same time protecting areas within each city where business is done, and profit is to be made.

Yet already Britain is the most locked-up, locked-down, monitored state in the world. We have record numbers of cops, record numbers of prisoners (including women & youth), more community support officers (ie cops), more neighbourhood wardens (ie civilian cops), more CCTV & more surveillance than ever. Last year the Home Office permitted over 40,000 bugging operations, not including covert ones by MI5, MI6, GCHQ, and the rest of the secret state. You are monitored via your credit card & bank info, your NI NO, your tax records, your council tax & electoral register, your mobile, your landline, your email, your NHS records, your passport, your driving licence, and by number plate recognition software & cameras on the M32. Oh, and don't forget tagging and satellite monitoring too.We said in our last issue that NewLabour envisage Britain as being a 'prison without bars', we were wrong in that that prison will be Europe-wide. In practice, having castrated the trade union movement, they have foreseen that serious future opposition to them and to the nasty side-effects of the globalisation of capitalism will come from within communities as people take back to the streets to resist. They are just planning ahead, and so must we, by both understanding the implications of their new laws, and by re-energising our opposition to them. This Special takes a serious look at ID cards and ASBOs, with some asides along the way. We'll start tho with some poetry...

Frightened of Freedom

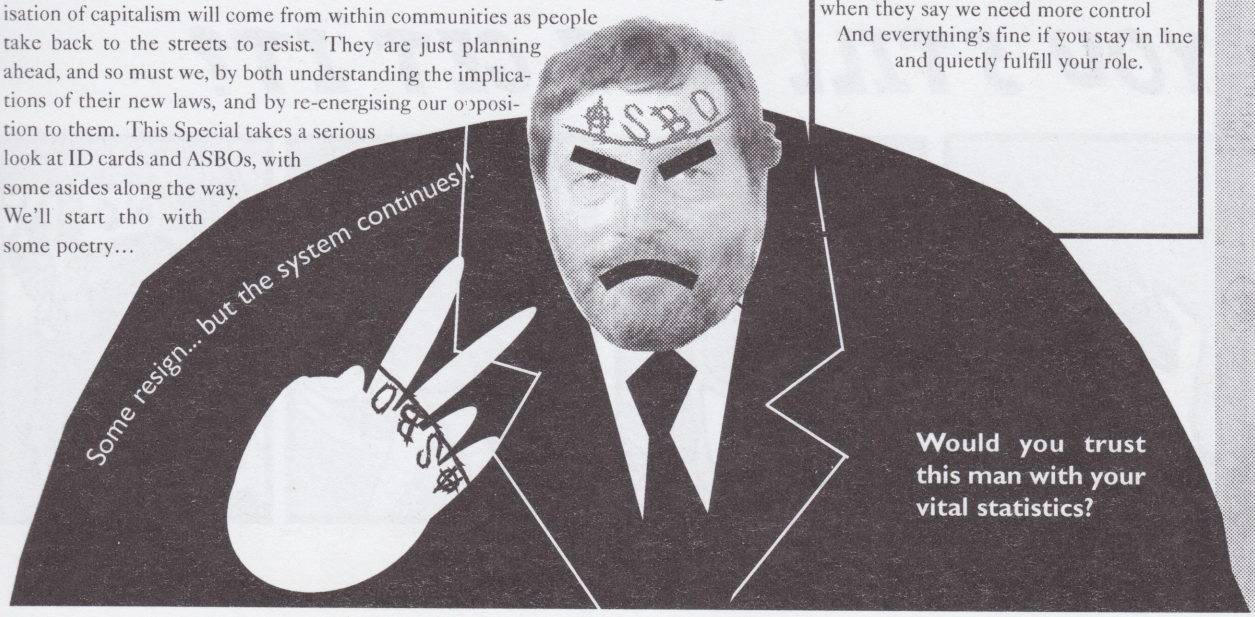
Is this really the way you choose to live?
Do you trust your elected representatives?
How safe do you feel with more police?
Do you accept that war is peace?
Can you really say what you want?
Is their democracy just a front?
How much are you prepared to sacrifice?
For your so-called freedom what's the price?

Frightened of freedom
so you choose to believe them
when they say we need more control
And everything's fine if you stay in line
and quietly fulfill your role

Under all the control with which we're faced
most of us just accept our place
Never stand out from the crowd
live your life within what's allowed
It's with all the little rules that you obey
that you build your own prison every day
and there's a guard that's living in your head
you won't be free until he's dead
But he's only as powerful as you let him be
you don't have to surrender your need to be free

More cameras in the streets
More weapons for cops on the beat
New laws to punish hard
Private security and I.D. cards
More powers for the secret state
to listen in and infiltrate
In the war without end on terrorism
we're all living in one big prison

Frightened of freedom
so you choose to believe them
when they say we need more control
And everything's fine if you stay in line
and quietly fulfill your role.



bristle 18/14

ASBO MANIA HITS UK!

Over the last year, the hysteria created around anti-social behaviour by New Labour, and Bristol City Council, has reached fever pitch, with ASBO's being their weapon of choice in fighting back. However, the authorities have revealed an even darker side to ASBO's, by using them against campaigners & protesters. We thought it was time readers found out what an ASBO actually is before they get one, so we asked a friendly legal eagle to brief us.

Anti-social behaviour?

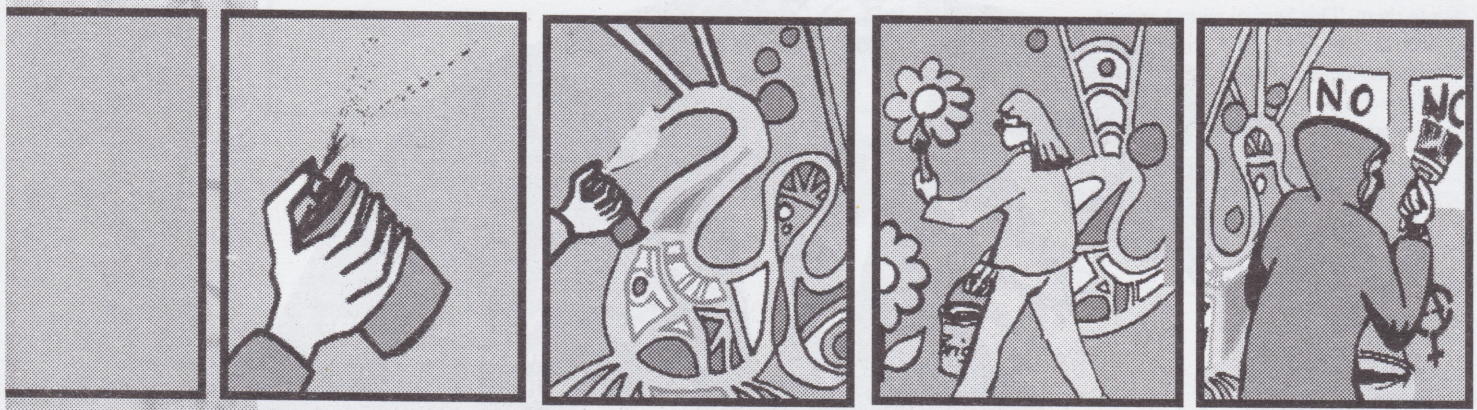
This complex question is quickly side-stepped by the Government, who on their crime reduction website go for a wide-ranging definition: "Behaviour which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people who are not in the same household as the perpetrator." ASBO's were originally introduced to tackle low-level nuisance behaviour such as petty vandalism and abusive neighbours, where criminal charges were either difficult to bring or wouldn't stick or were inappropriate, hence the emphasis on 'households'.

An ASBO is...

'Anti Social Behaviour Orders' were introduced by Section 1, Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and first used in April 1999. They were modified by the Police Reform Act 2002, and the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. An Order contains conditions prohibiting individuals from carrying out specific (anti-social) acts and/or entering defined areas, and is effective for a minimum of two years. There is no upper time limit, although in practice five years is typical. For example, an ASBO may prohibit association with other named people or from going to a named area or place. Examples of behaviour for which orders have been granted include: graffiti, abusive and intimidating language, excessive noise, drunken behaviour in the streets, dealing drugs.

ASBO's are 'civil' orders, which means that hearsay evidence can be heard and the burden of proof is less. In practice you don't need a very high standard of evidence to get an ASBO. The problem is that breach of an order is a criminal offence, which is arrestable, and punishable by up to five years in prison. ASBO's can be applied for by local authorities, police forces (including the British Transport Police),

DO YOU STILL NOT GET IT?



housing action trusts, and registered social landlords (housing associations). Members of the public cannot so far apply for one, but this is likely to change in the near future as part of the extension of ASBO's and of the Governments desire to 'empower' communities.

The Police Reform Act 2002

This introduced several main changes to the legislation:

Interim ASBO's – issued ahead of a full court hearing, if necessary without anyone being there.

Allowing the orders to cover a wider geographical area - including the whole of England and Wales if necessary.

Extending the scope of the orders - by allowing registered social landlords and the British Transport Police to apply.

Allowing county courts to make orders - for example where the court is dealing with applications for evictions on the basis of anti-social behaviour.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (ASBA)

This extended the definition of anti social behaviour even further. It removes the need to have actually been involved in 'wrong doing' but restricts freedom of movement and action.

The Act introduces curfews for under 16's and creates powers of dispersal. There is no need to link an individual to an action for powers to be used.

Dispersal powers allow the Police to move on groups if they believe that they (or any person in the group) are likely to intimidate people. Nobody actually has to have done anything.

As well as this there are increased powers, which will be able to be used against protestors and travellers (for example changing the law on public assembly, aggravated trespass, raves and trespass).

Criticisms of ASBO's

Breach of an ASBO is a criminal offence and it is therefore possible to end up in prison with a criminal record without committing a criminal offence. It criminalises non-criminal behaviour, especially among the young, and does not seek to address the reasons for their nuisance behaviour. It may put them on the path of criminality, when in fact they may need help. This is true also for adults.

The standard of evidence needed to obtain an ASBO is lower than for criminal proceedings, and so the presumption of innocence is undermined. They can also be abused by those with a personal vendetta against someone.

ASBO's don't work. They are frequently broken and the police do not have the resources to enforce them. This can lead them to being seen as a 'badge of honour' by alienated young people seeking status amongst their peer group (without understanding the consequences of them).

The Government have a 'blank cheque' policy in this area. The Prime Minister said in July 2004 that: "We asked the Police what powers they wanted, and gave them to them."

The Government and Courts have been deliberately unclear about what they mean by 'anti social behaviour', which can then be used to attack difference in society.

The Governments response to criticism that police powers are too wide is that the public should trust the Police to use their discretion. This has already been called in to question by their wide use of S44 Terrorism Act (stop and search powers).

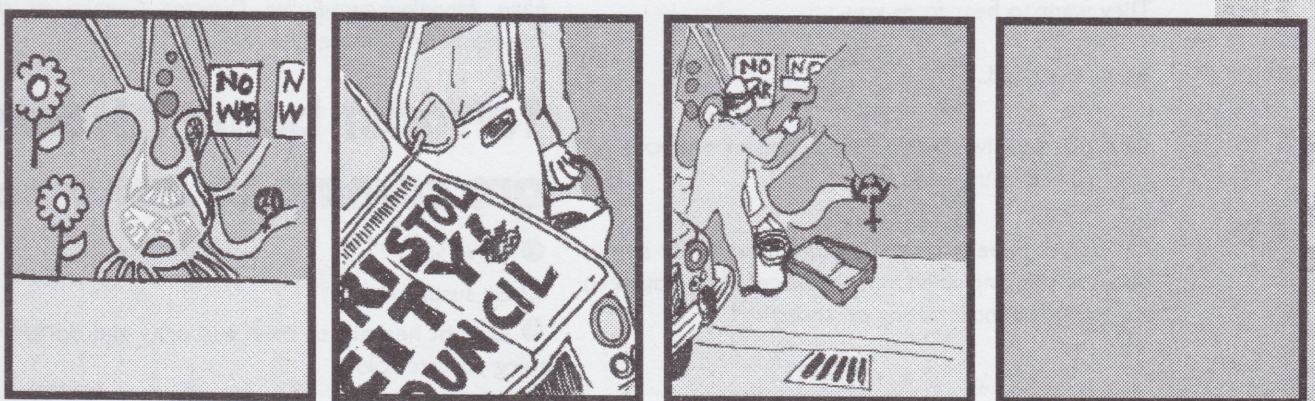
ASBO's and campaigners

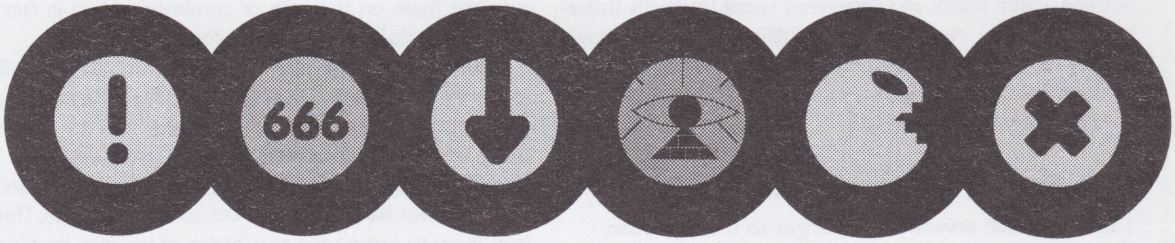
Recent figures have shown that these powers have been used disproportionately against Muslims and other ethnic minorities, and also against protesters.

ASBO's have already been granted against animal rights activists, anti-war protesters, and supporters of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign – who have a test case due in January 2005. The ever widening remit of ASBO's makes them an ideal weapon for use against just about any form of protest, however large or small. The police will be able to choose which 'law' you have broken, be it ASBO's, public order, or any of the other arsenal of laws they have at their disposal. What is supposed to be 'anti-social' is thus in danger of becoming behaviour that is against or undermines the 'norm', and in effect becomes part of the criminalisation of the right to protest. Protesters will need to become walking legal encyclopedias!

For further info check out:
www.statewatch.org/asbo/ASBOwatch.html
www.crimereduction.gov.uk/asbos2.ht

...THE SYSTEM LIKES IT... GREY!





PERPARING FOR A POLICE STATE
WHAT WE THINK YOU NEED TO KNOW

this booklet is designed to create a climate of fear and suspicion

"The Emergency Planning Society believes that this booklet provides valuable misinformation for a public that can easily be adapted. the fact that every home will have this is a good thing for government."
Debbie Spargo, Chief Exec. of the imaginary EPS

The government is working hard to make sure that the UK is as prepared as it can be for a totalitarian police state, and it is important that you are ready to comply. By being paranoid and scared, you can significantly reduce the risk of non-conformity and dissent.

This booklet willtell you how to help government keep everyone under control. A lot of this information is based on bogus "intelligence" and truth manipulation and may seem obvious or familiar to you, but it is guaranteed to destroy lives. It will also try to convince you that the government is interested in protecting you.

If you need alternative language versions or formats, you are probably an illegal immigrant. You can give us more information about yourself by calling 0800 000666.

You may have vital information. If you hear, see or come across anything that's not normal e.g. young Muslim types looking suspicious, please tell the police. They want to hear from you.

Terrorists need...

- A place to live: are you suspicious of everyone on your street? You should be.

- To plan: Have you seen anyone talking with somebody or standing stillin a public place? Have you seen anyone not concentrating on shopping?

- Money: We can use fears about terrorism to protect the profits of banks and big business.

- Equipment: If you are a retailer, be extra suspicious of customers and install lots of CCTV surveillance systems.

helping to prevent a terrorist attack

You, too can be a government agent, if you call the Police Anti-Terrorism Hotline. All calls will go on your file. If you believe there is an immediate threat to private property, call us. If not, just leave a message.

"All information received by the hotline is really useful for government control. Let us decide everything for you. Leave it to the experts, because politics is not your area. Stay indoors. We still very much need you to be the eyes and ears of the state. Indeed, it makes our job so much easier if everyone is shopping everyone else. Carry on shopping."
Peter Clarke, Deputy Commissioner, ACPO National coordinator of Big Brother Investigations

Our ability to prevent a terrorist attack depends on draconian laws and authoritarian government. How well we control you depends on you.
"Controlling resistance is MI5's highest priority. Working closely with our law enforcement and spy community partners, we strive to keep the UK safe for big business and make it difficult for anyone to change the status quo. But public snooping, unquestioning obedience and compliance are just as important and essential components of the UK's clampdown as a whole"
Eliza Manninghaum-Buller, Director General of the Security Service for the Rich (MI5)

Terrorist bomb attacks are coming to get you:

- Be afraid
- Be suspicious
- Do not hesitate to trust authority and do everything you are told

bristle 18/18

Public safety is our last priority in all decisions about public misinformation or scare-mongering. It is the government's policy to maintain a sense of constant threat. Such a threat will provide a hysterical public response and calls for more laws and stronger control. This helps the government to effectively attack everyone's freedom.

What's being done to protect the UK ruling classes?

The police are specially trained to deal with the control of the population, and have lots of new special powers to keep your freedom in a safe place. If necessary, a military clampdown can be called by the Government and the security services.

Over the last three years security for big business has been improved and laws toughened to make it more difficult to step out of line.

A lot of this work has to remain secret so you don't get to see what goes on behind closed doors. We find it easier this way.

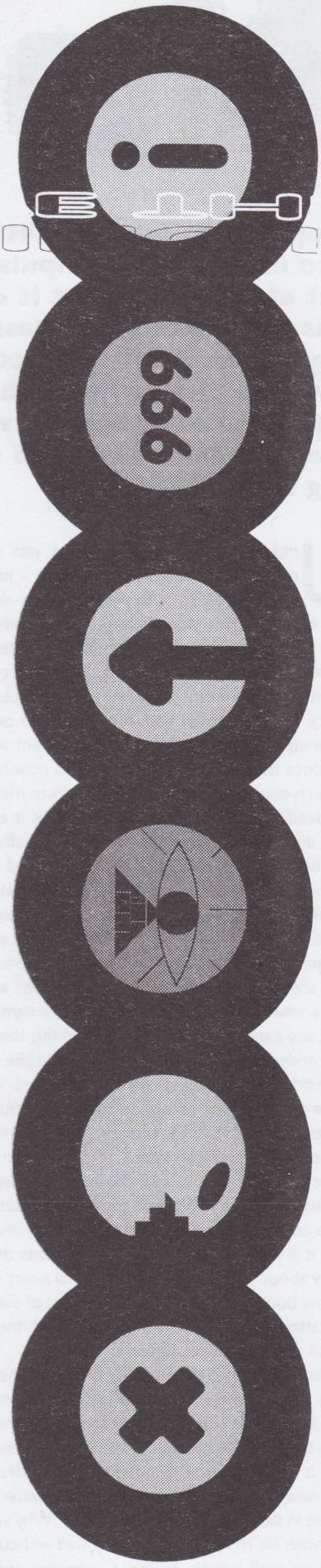
The UK has had to live with the threat of social unrest and resistance for many years and the authorities have well established plans and procedures in place to deal with any troublemakers.

The government has a well developed system of control to break up demonstrations, strikes and any opposition, and prevent disruption by stamping out any organised dissent that might affect UK Plc.

It aims to ensure that if all else breaks down, business as usual continues and capitalism keeps operating.

remember...

GO INDOORS, STAY INDOORS, WATCH TV AND DO WHAT WE TELL YOU.



No IDEA

What is the Proposed ID scheme? Ultimately the Government has made it clear that it wants to introduce a compulsory, universal ID scheme. However it is well aware that attempts to foist it on the public, wholesale, would be likely to meet serious resistance (doubtless memories of the Poll Tax now lurk in the back of any Government's collective mind). Instead it proposes that voluntary ID cards will be phased in gradually until they achieve an 80% uptake rate, at which point it presumably hopes it will be a forgone conclusion, and any remaining dissenters can be labelled as troublemakers with something to hide.

Until recently the Government was making much noise about combined ID cards - meaning an ID card combined with a passport or driving licence. Now it has dropped these in favour of a stand-alone ID card to be issued with passports. Much was made of this in the media but the issue is largely a red herring, a combined card was never that likely - the needs of a passport/driving licence were in conflict with those of an ID card. In fact the reasoning is that it means the Government will be able to introduce the new biometric passports now being demanded much quicker, as it needs to do if it is to meet the (changing) deadlines. Most importantly it means it can get everyone's details onto computer without being affected by technical hold-ups in the development of ID card technology.

The Government's proposals envisage that ID cards will contain a photo, some form of encoded biometric (most probably fingerprints, but possibly an iris scan, or facial recognition measurements - though no one has actually been able to get these to work reliably for anything other than a small sample), at the very least a name and date of birth, and a unique ID number. Beyond this they also have an open ended wish list of things they would like to see, including work and residency entitlements and validity dates. These are worrying enough in themselves but it is the last element - the unique ID number that is the most worrying. Without it any scheme would be useless, as proposed, for its purpose is to link in with the 'National Identity Register' - a vast centralised database containing details of everyone in the country - open to a frightening assortment of authorities. It is this massive centralisation of data that we have to worry about - for not only is it the real heart of the ID card scheme but it can be effective regardless of the actual implementation of the ID card scheme and the failures and refusal that might accompany it.

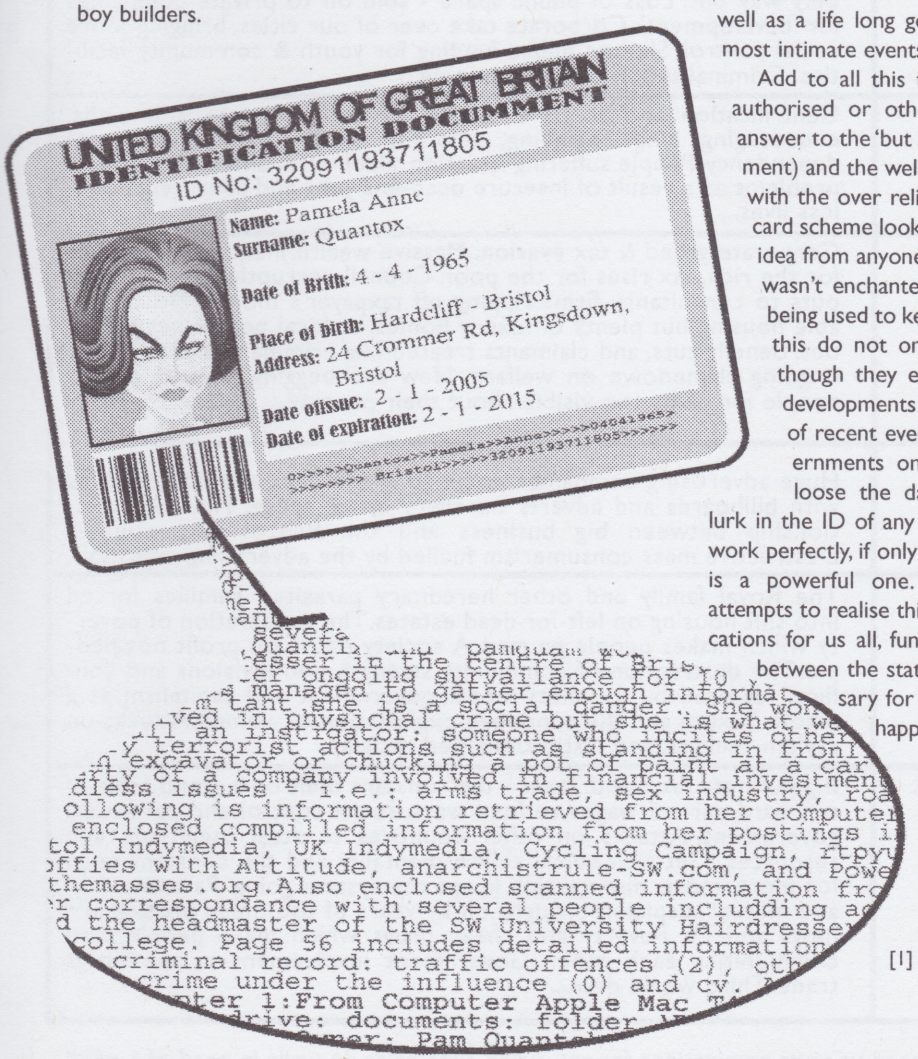
The Government's line on ID is a fickle one. often geared more towards the P.R. effort directed at promoting acceptance of the card than any application of the card that is liable to come into practical use. Whilst those real applications it has in mind remain hidden. David Blunkett's reigning fantasy is that the card will form "a waterproof identity for use in daily transactions and travel". Why we should need this, when life has worked perfectly well without it so far is a question well worth asking, a question validated by an examination of some of the government's stated uses. The ID card is intended to operate at different levels of security and validation - something forced on the scheme by the practicalities of validating higher level features e.g. biometric identification - so the Government sees shops using the photo as positive proof of identity, while institutions that require higher levels of security, such as banks, would use the biometric features. It's difficult to think of many uses of the first kind, beyond the obvious one of proof of age for alcohol sales, but this alone is enough to point out some of the failings of the proposed scheme. If such uses become common they form an incentive for forgery and theft since it creates value for the card as a low level security device - it matters not a jot, in this instance, that biometrics make the card very difficult to forge - there will be no need to do this since the photo alone has value, and if there is one certainty that has followed the introduction of ID schemes it is the presence of a busy market in fake ID's. Even with biometrics it is difficult to conceive of much uptake - where the need arises to establish identity, perfectly adequate schemes are already in place, and it is highly unlikely that banks will give up their existing measures in favour of an untested alternative.

The scheme is likely to find more use in the public, but even here, though, it will not be without problems. The government has already run into considerable opposition from doctors and other medical staff to its plans to make NHS treatment dependent on the scheme, and it is possible it will run into similar problems from benefit office staff concerned about their personal safety if it is too tightly integrated into the benefits system.

The scenario that probably springs first to people's minds is that of the police stopping people to demand their ID. While the Association of Chief Police Officers have issued statements in support of the scheme officers on the ground may run into problems. In particular the riots of the early '80's taught the police a bitter lesson about the use of the mass ethnically- targeted programs that involve stopping people and they are unlikely to risk repeating the experience in the mass sweeps for illegal immigrants that the government might otherwise dream about. The promise, secured by Jack Straw, that carrying ID cards will never be made mandatory, though they will be able to issue 'producers', creates a dilemma for the police: If they know who you are they don't need ID, if they don't they won't know where you live so there is nothing to stop someone simply doing a runner, or simply failing to turn up - which limits their usefulness. This does not mean that these procedures may not end up targeted specifically against groups seen as potentially troublesome - youth, the unemployed etc. In particu-

lar it is easy to imagine their use, alongside related laws such as failing to report a damaged card, being routinely used on even the smallest demonstration, much in the way Forward Intelligence Teams already are. This leads to a scenario where ID cards are used as a means of social control over an 'anti-social' other largely defined by the prejudices of the police.

As with other dubious schemes much loved by authoritarian governments, the government has brought out 'stopping terrorism' as the Excuse du Jour. (They're doing it to keep kids safe - which is presumably why all under 16 year olds are about to be subject to a non-consensual ID scheme all of their own - complete with DNA samples.) Unfortunately 'biometric' ID cards are not the techno fairy godmother David Blunkett thinks they are. Explaining the failure of a compulsory ID scheme in Spain to have any effect on the Madrid train bombings he explained this was because "they didn't have biometric ID." Er, Dave, no. By all accounts the bombers had legitimate IDs and it wouldn't have mattered if they had a full length nude portrait attached, though you can imagine this making for interesting scenes at passport control. ID cards won't do any good if you don't know who people are, and if the powers that be do know the identity of any terrorists you would hope they would keep better tabs than relying on people turning up in random identity checks. In any case organisations capable of atrocities on the scale of Madrid and New York are likely to have the motivation, and possibly the technology to attempt forgery if they need to. There are also likely to be big problems implementing the machine readable checks that will be needed to make the scheme work. Biometric machines are notoriously difficult to get working reliably and often throw up false matches or fail to identify people: bricklayers, for instance, often have abraded fingerprints. Though it's nice to know the government wants to keep the country safe from cowboy builders.



It is the creation of the National Identity Register (NIR), rather than any actual card, that should be the real cause for concern, however [1]. It will have implications for every person who will be on it. By itself, it has massive ramifications, for the first time the government is trying to tie all its records on individual subjects into one giant system. The unique ID number present on cards, and in the NIR database will provide the means whereby potentially any sets of records can be connected. Even if this is strictly limited at first the temptation of data creep is one no government is likely to be able to resist. This creates the spectre of, say, your unpaid parking fines (local authorities will be given access to the database in some cases) being linked to your medical treatment or benefits - nothing for you until you cough up. The problem of data creep extends far beyond the state - the presence of a universal unique ID number that is readily available (its on your card) means that commercial and non-governmental databases are likely to drift towards it. It's likely that this sort of material will become available to the state in one way or another, by court order, for example turning society into a giant surveillance machine. Your bank records, your shopping habits, all the little threads of your life history, now constantly turned into a series of data points, woven together for the state to pick over. In addition the government recently announced it is dropping plans for the Citizens Information Project - a kind of high-tech Registrar of births, deaths and marriages - only for it to emerge a few days later that it will combine this with the functions of the NIR. Many people will be given access to this - Insurance companies etc - supposedly on a voluntary basis , so long as you don't mind volunteering not to have insurance, that is, which will provide for yet more data creep, as well as a life long government tracking of some of the most intimate events in our lives.

Add to all this the potential for abuse by insiders, authorised or otherwise, of a central database (the answer to the 'but I've got nothing to be afraid of' argument) and the well known security problems that arise with the over reliance on a single system, and an ID card scheme looks like a bad, and massively expensive, idea from anyone's point of view. Anyone that is, who wasn't enchanted by the possibilities of technology being used to keep tabs on everyone. The dangers of this do not only lie in the proposed ID scheme, though they exemplify them. The combination of developments in digital technology, and the pretext of recent events has provided an excuse for governments on both sides of the Atlantic to let loose the darkly authoritarian tendencies that lurk in the ID of any state; the fantasy that things would work perfectly, if only you could keep track of everything, is a powerful one. Modern technology means that attempts to realise this fantasy could have profound implications for us all, fundamentally altering the relationship between the state and the individual. It is not necessary for the fantasy to be fulfilled for this to happen, even failure would be enough.

For further info check out:
www.defy-id.org.uk (anarchos)
www.no2id.net (lefties/trots)
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/ comrace/identitycards
www.statewatch.org/

[1] It is perfectly possible, using digital cryptographic signatures, to create a guaranteed identity document that requires no centralisation of data, and that can be renewed at will.

REALLY ANTI-SOCIAL

With all the hoo-har about anti-social behaviour and handy new catch-all laws for every occasion, politicians are falling over themselves to slap the 'anti-social' tag onto anything they don't like the look of. By taking advantage of people's real fears & concerns, and sustaining a climate of suspicion through the mass media, they coerce people into arguing for more social control and law enforcement. The definition of 'anti-social' used by the authorities is a predictably narrow one, and one pretty much confined (unsurprisingly) to working class communities.

So who decides what is meant by 'anti-social'? Shouldn't we first agree on what is 'social'? Here's a common dictionary definition of the word: 'social - living in companies or organised communities... interdependent, co-operative... concerned with the mutual relations of human beings...' (good grief - that sounds like anarchy to us!) Maybe it's time for us to join in the finger-wagging but point the finger in the other direction, and come up with some ideas of our own about what we think is anti-social.

Anti-social?	Really anti-social
Gangs of trouble-making youth on the streets.	Illegal wars, invasions, and the murder of civilians. Armed forces recruitment staff targeting poor areas, offering what seems like the only way out. Loss of public space - sold off to private companies for 'development'. Corporate take over of our cities, bringing more social control. Slashed public funding for youth & community facilities. Criminalisation of young people...
Street drinking.	Gentrification and social exclusion. Overpriced pubs and clubs, encouraging binge drinking, alco-pop culture, and subsequent dependency. People suffering isolation, alcoholism and mental health problems as a result of insecure dead-end jobs and alienated, hopeless lives...
Begging.	Corporate greed & tax evasion. Massive wealth inequality. Pay rises for the rich, tax rises for the poor. Council corruption & huge payouts to consultancy firms ripping off taxpayer's money. No affordable housing but plenty of luxury homes, as local people get priced out. Benefit cuts, and claimants treated like criminals as part of the ongoing clampdown on welfare. New anti-begging laws to punish people for being too visible about their poverty...
Flyposting and graffiti.	Huge advertising companies dominating our lives and communities with billboards and adverts on every bit of space. The cosy relationship between big business and the Bristol City council. Destructive mass consumerism fuelled by the advertising industry...
"Problem" families.	The Royal family and other hereditary parasites. Families forced into shit housing on left-for-dead estates. The desperation of poverty which makes people go mad. A society based on profit not people. The destruction of community strength, and divisions and conflicts fostered by the mass media, government and capitalism as a whole. Sexism and the continued exploitation of women. Attacks on asylum seekers, and institutionalised racism...
Street crime, muggings etc.	Big business tax fraud. Taxes - the constant theft on a grand scale of our hard earned wages to fund wars, social control and parasitical government. Attacks on other countries to steal their land and resources. 'Get rich quick' selfish mentality and the constant need for more, more, more which keeps the system going. Paranoia, fear and mutual suspicion brought on by years of too much propaganda news and TV. Poverty and cheap drugs which make people turn communities each other. Government involvement in the drugs trade. Third world debt...

The list goes on...why not send us your nominations for any ruling class ne'er-do-wells in need of a good stiff Anti Social Behaviour Order? Answers on the back of a bristle subscription form, please!

busting a gut



All right mate, so woz yer fuckin take, your dreamboat of gurt anarchy then? Give it to me straight So you wanna higher standard of living? Financial security? Holidays in Tuscany or the Algarve, a quiet semi in a cul-de-sac – or have you done a stretch, seen the other side, and washed your hands of all that shite. Do you really wanna follow those fuckers who dish-out these orders, the anti-social ones that dictate to us how we deal with our predicament [poverty]? Are you prepared to follow through with the door-step challenge [not the one from a washed-up comedian selling stain-remover in the suburbs?

Door-step is what you give to the NIMBYs who lay-out these hurdles that they can't fuckin jump themselves; ASBO's socialise, communicate and listen, you must be fuckin joking. They've moved into the ranks of nazi zero-tolerance, curfews on kids. Won't they just get pissed, push each other through hedges and smash windows in rush-hour before school in the morning?

There's a whole way of cutting crime but you've got to start at the top with the privileged, tight-fisted, stingy bastards raking it in. Take a look at the price of things: houses with decent-size gardens, flats near safe parks to play in, cut-backs, the rocket-fuel-prices of football season tickets and away-strip tops, theatre, cinema and festival admission fees. Feeling outclassed, an outcast yet? Shit jobs you could easily get stuck in, then can't get out of. If you worry about what's going to happen to you when you get old, then they've got you. Pension-plan? Residential-home? Cruise? Home-care? What about today? Tomorrow? Next week? Next year? If you focus on down payment plans full stop and your own private Idaho how can you throw yourself into the assault on capital, if you've integrated yourself into the workings of the machine? You end up tearing your heart out. Private health-plan, security and a cosy retirement... yawn... in a fucked-up, very unpredictable world like this?

You'll be saying you pay all your bills on time next! So what?! Economic sabotage, the right to roam, communal-living and undermining the powers that be. Is your belief-structure in two camps, maybe it's time to really choose a side. Your hands are the size that they are, you have to drop some things to pick up others, decide whether there is an enemy and draw a line accordingly. Just dipping a toe into the water makes the pool of anarchy diluted - why waste energy showing skills to people who do a U-turn or just fade back into the woodwork of obscurity.

Commitment to carry on when the going gets tough. Analyse self-harm - will you become a liability? Can you make a break, push the boat out — seize the day – are you saving yourself for the big one , the right one? So when I get arrested is it down hill from there? Well it's how **you** look at it, not what your parents or your boss thinks. If it happens enough it's like a black-hole, you've glided through - you're in another world, you're freed-up. It's a learning curve – different opportunities have opened up for you, bridges have burnt behind you. Kick ass before they ask you to kiss theirs. From shallow night-clubbing and PA systems to Realisation Street. Seeing that there is a crock of gold, but not everyone's lucky enough to have a rainbow, so why play tug-o-war with a piece of flesh like a pack of starving wolves? We will not wait in your rush-hours as long as the spirit and vision burns in our ears.



So where is the Movement as a whole going at the moment? People's lives are taken up with part-time jobs and weekends away to escape the grind of the city, if you have got somewhere stable to live now (like me), no big income, the voluntary work you were doing has somewhat dried up and every now and then there is a political action, when the people concerned enough are available to meet. But you feel at a loss, with time on your hands - the confidence and experience politically can make you unemployed and you know what they say about idle hands doing the devil's work... Could it be time to stalk one of those quango-crats the *Bristolian* harps on about week-in week-out?

I confess I stumbled across one of these specimens who was in the company of an unidentified partner in grime. I proceeded to follow for up to 20 minutes without detection - I can say the observation was not fully fruitful, but I can start to put a jigsaw together... not a group thing to do but information gained can be useful!

There are many solo actions, like raids on companies' bins and humorous fly-posting, a bit of graffiti, sticking freezer stickers with your message on dodgy products, nuisance phone calls, bomb scares, collecting information on freebie resources found in skips, empty properties and warehouses... All this might seem quite 'small' and not exciting enough to write home about - but it beats sitting around in the pub and manufacturing a mid-life spread - it is very sad seeing retired rebels crying into their pints. It's time to do some gut-busting actions, and as you only have one life try, to make the social side of it imaginative and a little more interesting and less washed-up than the weekend lock-in at the local – **pleeeeaase!**



An interview with members of the St Agnes Residents Group

Whose streets? Our streets!

Abda has lived in this area all her life, she's married with two children. She explained how the residents group got started.
"The council were doing a group repair scheme in Morgan Street about eighteen months ago. Many of the residents were unhappy about the standard of the work. We discussed it together and met with the council and the area housing. We thought it worked better to show a united front, instead of complaining as individuals. Our voices were heard more as a group. From there, one of the residents decided to start a neighbourhood watch and the group grew out of that.'



Helen: I heard about the group at the same time as I was thinking about some of these issues.' Helen moved to the St Agnes this year and got involved a few months ago. The group had originally just been for Morgan Street but after the success of a local history evening, it was decided to invite the neighbouring streets to join.

bristle: What do you see as being the main functions/roles of the group? Why is it needed?

Helen: I think it is useful in dealing with officialdom - numbers are very useful.

Abda: Everybody brings different strengths and experiences to the group. United - it's a positive way to tackle problems. Some people have insider skills, some are good at talking, some can interpret. There is the social side, sharing problems, meeting in the street. Many people are isolated, especially the elderly. They can get out to a meeting and discuss things. It's also about sharing information and networking. - And we can look out for one another.

bristle: What are some of the problems you have tried to address in the group?

Helen: Drug dealing, disrespect for the community by certain sections. There are drug dealers in the park, the playground - blatant. Also there are problems with the pub, with noise pollution, and with cars speeding down the road. So people in the group are trying to get a traffic calming scheme, and to do something about the noise etc.
This is a mixed community with a lot of young families. Lots of people are fed up at the attitude of a minority - it's outrageous.
It seems like there's a containment policy to keep drug dealing in this area. It wouldn't happen in Clifton! It's

easy for people to come in straight off the motorway and out again. It's seen as the ghetto – no councillors live here! The drug dealers have got the message that they can do what they like here. I think the police are scared.
It makes me angry that just down the road the Star and Garter - which is a good pub for the community - not loud, etc - has had continuous problems with it's licensing. Yet the pub here is a menace to the community – and nothing gets done.'

NO Heroin Is Destroying Our Communities

Abda: We had a gardening project. We were fed up of the cars parked in the road and the dealers outside our homes. We thought we'd show the dealers we care about this area, show them: WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE! So we get a gardening project to do up the front gardens and make the street look nice and cared for. We had two days when the community gardener from St Pauls Unlimited met with everybody from the street. People paid a contribution for plants and hanging baskets. Equipment was available to borrow and there was help for the elderly. It got everybody out onto the street and working together. A team effort. Other streets are interested for next year. I think it's worked – I think there are fewer dealers on our street.
The group provides a place for people to talk about their problems. Things get done – like the replastering work - that got sorted out. It feels like people are beginning to take notice. At this month's meeting the local councillor and police representative are coming to listen to us.
Most of the talk will probably be about the pub - people are scared to go out. It's tolerated by the police "Because that's what's expected in St Pauls"!
As for 'Zero Tolerance' – we're dumped with problems – well we're not taking it any more! This is our home and our kids' futures. If we're not going to do it – nobody else is!'

Helen: I think the police and the council should be answerable to the community. It's difficult to get people to ring back - you have to leave three or four messages before you get a response. Then they've often lost the previous messages. Since the Black and White café got closed – the problems just moved. It could be tackled without a great deal of effort.
'I've seen what people can achieve when they get together. Like in St Werburghs – the hill got saved after a lot of campaigning and is now a great resource for the area. It can work – but it's a massive uphill struggle.'

bristle: How is the group seen by authorities?



Helen: It's humoured by various departments. They're helpful and friendly on the phone – placating. But whether anything will get done - we'll see at this meeting on Monday.
'A black friend of mine told me that since the Stephen Lawrence case the police have pulled back from the area – they're frightened of being accused of hassling – so it's hands-off. Which is good in one way, but bad if people get the message: "It's St Pauls – we can do whatever we like."
There's a lot of regeneration money. Let's see if there will be improvements or if it'll be more huge consultant's fees and no real change. I guess it's 'watch this space'. I'm open-minded.'

bristle: What do you see as being the strengths and limitations of the group?

Helen: It's nice to feel you've got support - it's not just you on your own. It's nice to meet people who are active and who you could call on for help. The group puts energy into a feeling of community – stoking the community up – it's empowering.
The main difficulty is trying to motivate people – it takes lots of phone calls, putting out lots of letters. A lot of people are scared and intimidated, others don't have good English, and some are worried about being traced.' It's difficult to get people in. But I know a few more people now – I'm hopeful for this area. There's not a lot stopping it from being a nice place to live.'

Abda: The group lets people know that they are not alone. I invited a Somalian woman along – she had been spat at in the Park. I told her "Come and see that we're not all like that." Maybe we can help – people can share experiences. Talking is the key thing. The meetings are very friendly, children are welcome. We have achieved a lot.
It's not the people from St Pauls that make it a horrible place – we get the bad press. It's the people that come in. This community is culturally enriched and diverse. We all mingle in.
You've got to put something in to get something out. If you want a better future for your self and your children it's up to you to make it a better place. It's a commitment. Nobody else is going to do it for you.

AVAG - SELFISH SELF-BUILDERS?

Cool-looking, eco-friendly housing development in St Werburghs? Sounds great. Sadly, behind the scenes lies a story of a local community divided amid allegations of greed, corruption and dumping on your neighbours. Bristle was approached by some local residents armed with supporting documentation - this is their side of the story...



You won't see one of these in upper Mina Rd anymore!

bristle: What led to the formation of the Ashley Vale Action Group (AVAG)? What were its aims? What support did it have at the start?

Residents: Right at the end of Mina Road is the valley of Ashley Vale. The valley contains a few rows of houses, the best pub in Bristol, the City Farm, the Farm Café, and is bordered by allotments and a nature reserve, making it a bit of a rural idyll right in the middle of the inner city; and a unique community due to its status as one of the only places in the country where a settled population living in houses lived in pretty much peaceful co-existence with a whole selection of bus, truck and caravan dwelling folk.

Ashley Vale Action Group (AVAG) was formed in Feb 2000 when a group of comparatively wealthy local residents got together to buy the old SGB scaffold yard at the end of Mina Road, because they saw it as an opportunity to take control of their own community. Its aims were to buy the land in order to prevent a commercial developer taking over the site and harassing the vehicle-dwellers, and then sell individual plots to self builders for the construction of an eco-housing project that would be a real exercise in community; mixing 22 self-build eco houses for family residence; housing for old people in the middle, and cheap office space for local businesses via an existing office block on the site. The income from the office block would be used to generate income that could be used to look after the valley outside of the need for Council funding. The group were able to sell their ideas to the local community as a caring, sharing project that would take care of the valley & respect the lifestyles of its already unique group of residents. They undertook that the houses would be strictly for families; that all the buildings fronting Mina Road would fit in with the houses already there, the larger dwellings being set back against the valley's edge, echoing its natural geographic form and maintaining the open airy feel of the place. The original planning judgement of 14 March 2001 detailed exactly that. At the time the people of the valley were understandably excited by the development and gave it their support on the basis of the information provided by the AVAG Directors.

Bristle: Can you describe the contract with the community drawn up to regulate the development of the project as detailed in the form TP1 agreement. What happened after?

Residents: The contract describes the many conditions that are supposed to regulate the way in which the development was to be built and run and governs the developments obligations to the community in which it is being built, including a timescale for the completion of the project.

The TP1 is long and complex, containing many conditions, but even after a brief read it's an eye opener. The most pertinent condition was a commitment to having all the sewage, electrics, water and drainage in place within a two-year period and also the completion of all the dwelling exteriors. One look tells you that nearly four years after commencement this white elephant is still far from completion.

Another clause prohibited self-builders from breaking the conditions of their planning permission. Yet many properties now have self-contained flats, for sub-let by the self-builders for their personal profit, with vast implications for quality of life here due to an increase in both the amount of people living here and the consequent volume of traffic using the valley. To our knowledge the scheme to date has been subject to no less than three enforcement investigations on breaches of planning by BCC. Interestingly, absolutely no action has been forthcoming by the Council to remedy any of these breaches.

There are clauses that disbar the re-selling of purchased plots, yet one plot initially bought for £30k was sold at public auction for over £90k with nothing done to it, enabling the original purchaser to walk away with £60k of profit simply for wasting the community's time for six months. Our attention was drawn to the terms of the Agreement and the complete failure by AVAG to enforce them by Graham Caine, the visionary architect responsible for the design and build of the "faery" house in Boiling Wells Lane, and also the Farm Café. He was one of the original architects of the scheme, who felt forced to resign in protest at the hijacking of the scheme by the greed and self-interest of the self-builders and the directorship of AVAG, once they had their blanket planning permission. Such has been his disgust with AVAG that he is leaving Bristol. He has written publicly: "AVAG have consistently failed to ensure that the so-called self-builders complied with their legalised agreement (TP1) to complete the externals on their houses on time. In fact, the company secretary, Patrick Edwards, who is responsible for ensuring that the company acts within its legal framework, hadn't even started his own house by the time he had agreed to complete its outside. This blatant infringement of duty in enforcement only encouraged others not to complete. As a result the community experiences dust, noise pollution, and everything else that goes with living next to a building site over a year after the agreed completion date with some houses not even started."

bristle: We can see from here that the development differs from those original plans. What happened to the strip of land the vehicle-dwellers were on? Where are they now?



Caught in the act - AVAG supporters try to remove caravan

Residents: The strip of land adjoining the development at the end of Mina Road was for many years the home of a mixed community of people living in trucks, buses and caravans with the full consent and co-operation of their neighbours on the other side of the street. They were able to live there and avoid eviction for so many years because of two factors. The first is that to evict a piece of land the Council need to know who owns it; and ownership could never be proved before AVAG made it their mission to establish ownership of the strip and purchase the land. The second was that the two communities lived in mutually peaceful, beneficial and successful integration. Then AVAG approached Bristol Water with its 'research', and convinced them that they in fact were the owners and offered them £2000 to accept ownership and agree to the purchase. Interestingly, the AVAG account sheet shows the purchase is as having cost nearly £4000, quite a discrepancy.

Bristol has a large and successful population of circus and street theatre performers, who have to live a mobile existence, and many had made their homes on the strip. In its recent application for status as European City of Culture, BCC actively acknowledged the contribution made by this population to the quality of life and culture in our city and used them as a selling point in its bid. Yet AVAG took it upon itself to deprive these people of their longstanding home, and paid money to illegally and forcibly evict the strip without any kind of court order or official eviction notice. It was able to do this because one of the AVAG Directors is Simon Groves, a civil engineer in the Transport Planning section of the Council, who was able to use AVAG money to employ his moonlighting colleagues in Parking Services, and their tow trucks, to facilitate the eviction. There was a situation here on one sunny autumn morning where local residents had to restrain one AVAG member in particular, Dick Hodgeson, a former employee of Sustrans the sustainable transport charity, from stealing caravans sited on the strip by photographing him and his fellow self-builder son caught in the act. This action was taken by residents who objected to a concerted campaign of aggressive intimidation & harassment, designed to force people already living on the strip into leaving.

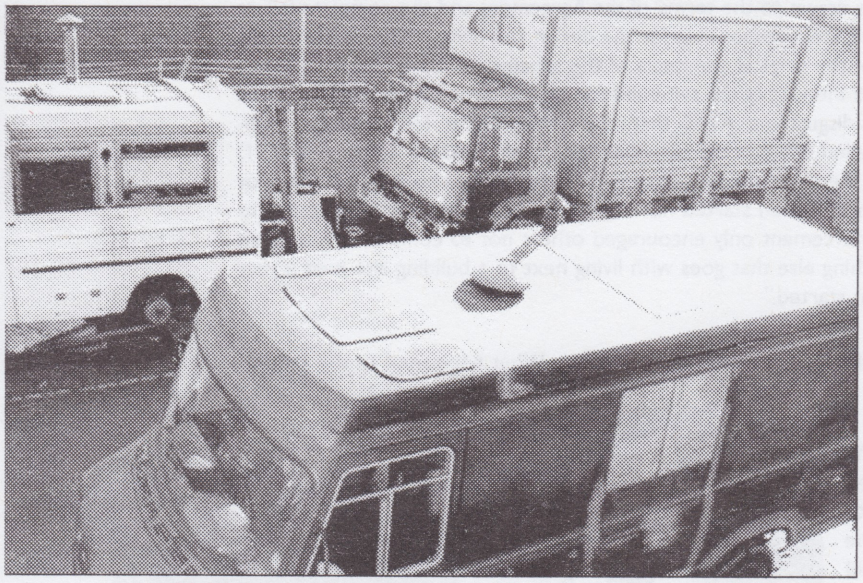
One horse-drawn occupant of the strip actually raised a deposit to buy one of the AVAG properties in order to house himself and his newly born baby. He took out a loan for the money and paid the deposit. Only to have his deposit summarily returned to him only three days from completion, with no apology nor explanation. It is necessary to point out that one AVAG Director in particular, Barbara McKay, has consistently tried to characterise mobile residents of the valley as drug addicts, prostitutes and criminals in order justify AVAGs' actions, when this is patently not the case. Needless to say her adult children are both heavily involved in the self-build!

Perhaps the most poignant story though in this catalogue of eco-hypocrisy, is that of the inhabitant of an old white ambulance right at the end of Mina Road, who had lived and worked there for nearly a decade. He worked for many years in the employ of Functional, the kitchen factory opposite his ambulance (owned by Mike Harvey, AVAG's 'Information Officer'). As the longest standing resident of the strip he could have mounted a very real challenge to AVAG's purchase of the strip. Understandably however, he was unwilling to go though all the bullshit associated with this process, and simply left in the end, leaving a big gap in the cultural fabric of the community. Before he left, he described in detail how his employer gave him a simple ultimatum when it came to the eviction of the strip – either he could vacate his spot on the strip on the day of the eviction, and move his ambulance across the road right next door to his employer's factory; or he would lose his job, and the offer of a continued place in the community forever. Incidentally, according to its next door neighbours, the factory has a cellulose spray booth that spews residue into the community.

AVAG supposedly needed the strip because it was the 'only' place that they could put in their services, and had to get them finished to comply with their planning permission. Unlike the rest of the site, it remains the property of AVAG, who were granted planning permission for it on the condition that it was turned into a 2m wide public walkway (they are currently under an enforcement investigation by Planning because it has been turned into private gardens for the self-builders!). Graham Caine brought to light the real situation behind the purchase of the strip:

"The specific reason behind my resignation was the occasion that I attended a meeting of the services committee of AVAG. They were having problems trying to understand the reasoning behind the proposed drainage layout by Dick Hodgeson. After some questioning, Hodgeson eventually admitted to designing the scheme to suit his personal preference of not having a communal drain running across his garden. This kind of behaviour is normally referred to as corruption, and who wants to be

AVAG - SELFISH SELF-BUILDERS?



Vehicle-dwellers in upper Mina Rd, before AVAG

involved with a corrupt organisation? Hodgeson came back with another scheme based on the same personal criteria, which probably put another £20k on his property and ruined any real prospects of developing beneficial parking at the top end of Mina Road. The other consequence of this was that AVAG failed to get the services ready on time as agreed with Redland Housing Association, which is in part a reason for their decision to back out of the provision of affordable housing (6 bungalows for elderly residents) on the site."

bristle: How were they able to change the agreed development plans? How did the self-builders come to dominate? Didn't the rest of AVAG or the local community object?

Residents: Basically they lied to the community in order to generate support for their planning application and then abused the trust given to them on the basis of their lies. Once they had blanket planning permission, the self-builders were able to submit many changes to the original designs that went through without any need for further consultation or approval by the community. There was also a lot of infighting, skulduggery, dishonesty and double standards going on within the AVAG Directorship itself. They also had privileged access to the Planning Dept via Simon Groves and Jon Brockwell who both work for the Council. Graham Caine again:

"AVAG was a brilliant project, originating from within the community. It was soon established that the only way to we could benefit this community was to buy the land ourselves and get it developed within the ideals of community benefit. Why it so spectacularly failed is a story of greed and self-interest. Even before the so-called self-builders took control of the 'not for profit' company, self interest began to surface.

Right from the start Simon Groves insisted that the office block should not be used for residential use 'because he didn't want his garden overlooked' as then he was living next door to it. That should have been stamped on then and there, but the group was in early formation and this entirely illegal attitude was ignored. Directors are prohibited by company law from putting their personal benefits before those of the company's. Yet later he quickly presided over a scheme where peoples' bedrooms were overlooked, ie looked into, and not just one house, but a whole street, in the shape of upper Mina Road."

When residents asked *Mina Matters*, our local community newspaper, to publish the full contents of the letter quoted here from Graham Caine, their editorial meeting turned the idea down flat. *Mina Matters* find no difficulty in publishing regular press releases from Simon Groves, despite objections from the local community about the veracity of his information. It is no surprise that one of *Mina Matters* editorial team handles all the admin and minuting for the meetings of the AVAG Directorship. One of her duties is to compile the Agenda for the AGM of AVAG, which this year contained yet another request for a vote of no-confidence in the Directorship, based on the contents of Graham Caines letter. First there was a 'mistake' that meant the motion for a vote of no confidence was omitted from the publicly distributed agenda; and then, when that omission was pointed out, she claimed that she was not in possession of any such letter to justify the motion; even though she sat on the editorial meeting of *Mina Matters* that refused to make its contents public.



Council official, before alleged illegal eviction

bristle: What is going to happen now, with AVAG & the self-builders? Are pissed off local residents taking any action?

Residents: In the very near future AVAG will hand over complete control of the development to the self-builders, who have formed a private limited company to manage and control the development outside of any control from the wider community. This will enable AVAG to disavow themselves of any responsibility to honour their original undertakings to the community. The Estate Management Company will have no duty to operate on a not-for-profit/community basis and will have no responsibility to the community in any way. It seems that they have no responsibility to deliver the mixed-use community project that they originally promised, and for which they obtained Planning Permission, and any prospect of a Council or Ombudsman investigation into the obvious corruption that has riddled this project from the word go is fast disappearing. There is no public right of way across the site making it a private housing development existing for the benefit of only those who have bought into it.

Residents would like to hear from anyone well versed in the practice of planning law, who might be interested in taking on this situation on a pro-bono basis, in order that this group can be challenged and their unwanted selfish dominance of our valleys development be overturned forever and for good; in order that injustice should be exposed and restitution be made. The self-interest of the public servants who have abused their dual positions in the Council and AVAG management should be kicked out of public service. Compensation should be ordered for every house on upper Mina Road. Any company running the AVAG development should be forced to honour the original commitment to the community, even if it has to be at the expense of the individuals who have already profited from their involvement in the development.

PEAK OIL

"The crisis is very, very near. World War III has started. It has already affected every single citizen of the Middle East. Soon it will spill over to affect every single citizen of the world".

Of course, predictions about the start of the next world war are heard in the bristle office whenever someone threatens to 'tidy up'. But the comments above are not from wild-eyed revolutionaries like ourselves. They are the comments of the Vice-President of the Iranian Oil Company, Ali Samsam Bakhtiari, at a meeting of the world's major oil companies to study the consequences of Peak Oil. And they are being taken very seriously, although very quietly, by governments and oil companies across the globe.



So what is peak oil? Quite simply, it's the recognition that the oil age is coming to an end — and faster than most people think. The received wisdom is that we have many more decades before we need to worry about using up the last of the world's oil reserves. Plenty more cheap energy, they say, and plenty of time to look for alternatives to crude oil such as tar sands, natural gas, even a nuclear revival. Leaving aside the catastrophic consequences of continuing to rely on nuclear and fossil fuels for our energy supply (in human and environmental terms), the one small problem is that no-one bothered to ask the geologists.

Since the 1950s it has been known that once half the oil has been pumped out of any well, the rate of production is doomed to fall. This applies to single wells, whole fields, regions, continents – even the entire world. So with this knowledge, geologists started making predictions (which turned out to be strikingly accurate) about when oil would start 'peaking'. So it was for the North Sea field in the mid-1990s. In Russia, it will be in the next couple of years. In the middle east, in the next decade. And when you start to add these individual figures up, even an economist could work out that global oil production is due to peak in the next couple of years. And, as any economist will tell you, when production starts permanently falling and demand is rising (which it is, at record rates), things quickly start to get unpleasant. Oil wars, prices above $50 per barrel and power blackouts are just the beginning. If, instead of using the energy we have left to build a sustainable energy policy we burn every drop before production undergoes the catastropic 'collapse' at the end of the peak, billions of people (many in the poorest countries) will find themselves without the energy to feed their agriculture. No oil means no fertilisers to provide the nitrogen with which to grow crops. It means no cars, no planes and no plastics, but also no tools, no wind turbines, no uranium for nuclear power (how do you think they get the ore out of the ground), no water supply and no electricity. While some anarcho-primitivists may yearn for the collapse of technology, the billions of humans whose survival depends on modern agriculture are unlikely to be cheering.

The end of the oil economy needs to happen to save the planet and build a sustainable world. But unless action is taken now, at every level of society, our lives will be transformed beyond recognition in ways we are totally unprepared for. We can expect those with the guns to hold on to the oil for longest. And their weapons are ignorance, complicity and silence. The imminent destruction of civilisation isn't usually thought of as an anarchist's nightmare but by getting the big issues out there, it might just wake us up.

For further info see:
http://energybulletin.net/
http://www.peakoil.net/
The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies by Richard Heinberg. ISBN: 1902636457

THE HUNTING BILL - FROM A HUNT SABOTEURS PERSPECTIVE

The Governments Hunting Bill becomes law in February. But is it really a "hunting ban"? Many hunts are considering re-establishing themselves as drag hunts or "hound exercise clubs". The Government's Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs(DEFRA) has made it clear that these re-established hunts can still chase and kill foxes, as long as they don't do so deliberately! Any hunt claiming to be a hound exercise club would obviously be manipulating the law, but DEFRA has commented that police would find it hard to prosecute a hunt if their hounds inadvertently chased and killed a fox. It is likely that the Hunting Bill will have no affect on hunting and so hunt saboteurs will continue to save lives where the Government fails to do anything. For decades hunt saboteurs have been stopping hounds from killing and the loophole riddled Hunting Bill means we still have a tough job ahead of us. After "the ban" we will be there to stop the kill and record video evidence of deliberate hunting, to ensure convictions and time inside for idiot redcoats. Regardless of the Hunting Bill we are there to save lives, we are every week. We were there last week and we'll be there next week, until all bloodsports are stopped – for good.

bristolhuntsabs@linuxmail.org
TEL:07734864572

BREAK IT OUT!

Fed up with all the outdoor advertising defacing our city? Angry that the council can't or won't put a stop to the promotion of consumer culture? Well, don't get mad, get even with bristle's guide to fighting outdoor advertising!

Street boards

There are four main models of street boards

- Free standing board with opening in side some 3" from base, often with rubber flange - see diagram. To open a simple key is required. Find a 1cm diameter metal tube, cut to convenient length with a hacksaw (say 6"), and cut 2 slots in the end, some 10mm deep opposite each other, some 3mm wide. This will allow the tube to engage with the turning mechanism (see diagram 1).

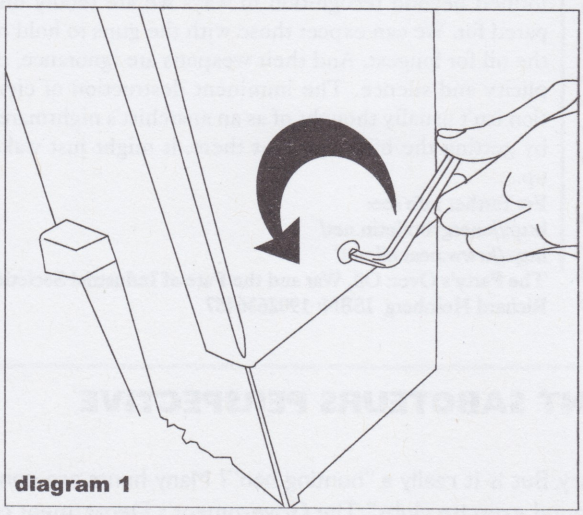


diagram 1

- Free standing board with two small openings on the underside. Screwdriver inserted into the holes will allow the latches to be slipped (see diagram 2).
- Bus shelter boards. These have a central hole (see diagram 3) into which a long (>14cm) thin (<0.5 cm) metal spike must be inserted (e.g. a skewer). This will raise the two catches at each side. No obvious way of preventing re-opening.
- Free standing board with side key hole. As yet activists haven't cracked opening this one. Instead glue shut, especially if no ad in place – super glue with a long nozzle is good.

Once open, the offending ad can be removed, or altered, either there and then or at leisure at home. If replacing an advert with another, clearly not a proper advert (e.g. a day glow poster), laminating on card board makes for quicker insertion, while masking tape is reasonably effective. Day glow club style posters can be printed up for about £1.10 each for A1 size (e.g. www.servicepointuk.com or www.outofhand.co.uk – may be cheaper elsewhere). Alternatively A4 or A3 copies can be used to remind the viewer why they should avoid the product. Try to tie in to any current campaigns – the next Sainsbury ad campaign will be a glaring opportunity to remind people about the GM milk they sell, together with details of alternative suppliers.

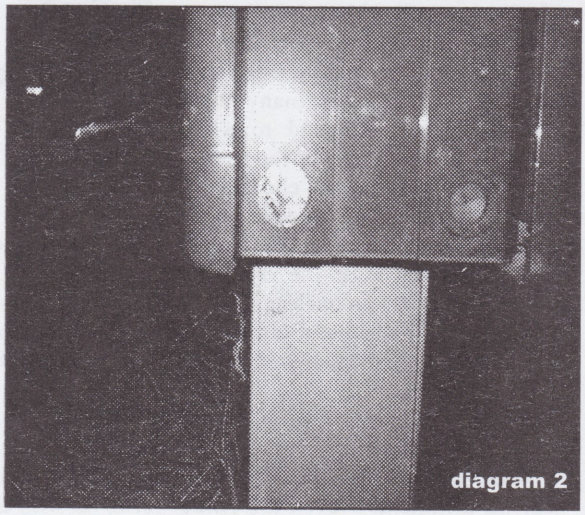
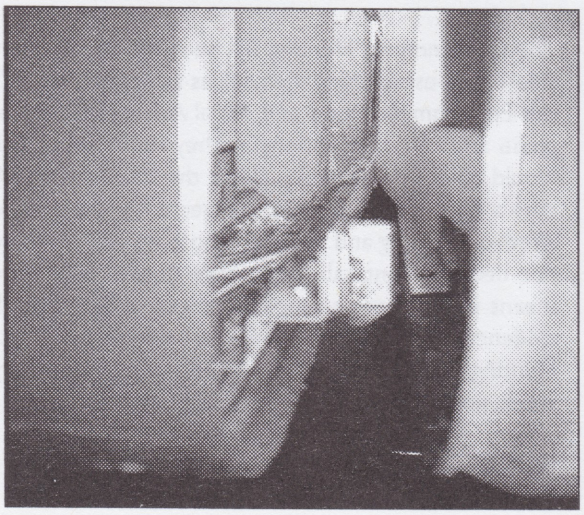


diagram 2

Power units

Both billboards and street boards signs are often illuminated, and or involve rotating parts. Switching off the power will lower the visibility of the board, and stop rotation, if they have moving parts. The electrical powers can be switched off as follows;

1. Locate the power unit, which is usually located in 18" high grey metal boxes near by.



2. Remove the screws. A 5 mm hexagonal key from a decent tool shop will allow you to easily open these units (you may wish to get a set as key size may vary).
3. Take the screws home, and cut the screws (hacksaw and ideally a vice are required) almost all the way through at the level of the bottom of the hex indent, so that the screw can be turned, but the indent will break off if a good bit of pressure is applied.
4. Return and switch off the power (diagram 4).
5. Then replace the screws, breaking off the hex indent when the screw is fully in. This will make it very difficult to open the box again. It is important to replace and break both screws, as the ad operator can open and flick the switch if one screw can be opened.

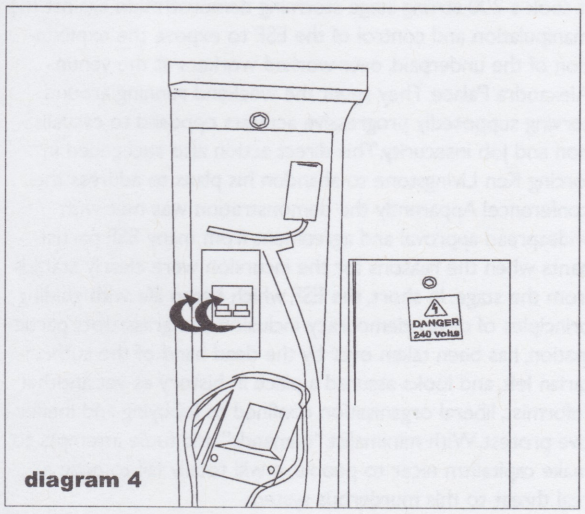


diagram 4

Billboards

A variety of methods can be used to get your own back on these monstrosities. Here are a few possibilities:

- Jamming Rotating boards. Some can be jammed by inserting detritus (plastic drink bottles etc) into the back of them (e.g. the one as you turn to IKEA from the M32). On others, the individual strips can be manually rotated, so the picture is all messed up (e.g. further up Muller road). Both methods are quick and easy to do, and very low risk of punishment, but easy to undo by the contractor.
- Defacing/subvertising boards. Subvertising is an art form about which much could be written. Make it legible, and make it witty [ffi see http://www.subvertise.org/]. Simple defacing can be done with spray cans, paint bombs (fill a large pvc bottle with cheep emulsion paint and use a top from a detergent bottle to inject it into water bombs). Throw hard and at an angle to avoid splash back (ffi see http://www.urban75.com/Action/factory.html). Immediately after or during driving rain, or five minutes after you see a paster putting up a new poster, peel the poster off/tear off the logo bit of the poster.
- Plasticated tarpaulin banner ads. A pen knife does the trick to render illegible. Remove a small section to ensure it is not taped back up. Banners ads can often can easily be removed entirely (bring a rucksack to carry it a way in), and the reverse used to create a banner of your own, to be hung at a suitable location. Top tip - plastic zip ties used to attach these can be undone with an electrical type screwdriver, and reused as required.

Trailers

An increasing menace in the countryside near main roads are ads on trailers. These can be damaged to quite a large extent. Something to puncture the tyres, (long screws), and two adjustable spanners to remove the towing mechanism are the most effective. See also banner ads above. These are perhaps the most satisfying to target - usually very safe to work during the night, the most offensive, and the greatest pain/cost for the owners. Note that as trailers move quite frequently, they should be targeted promptly. Woe betide customised vans parked in lay byes.

Background info.

Be clear about what you are trying to achieve. Breaking the law should not be done lightly, and should be well thought through.

- To hijack the medium to get your message across
- To rid the area of a particular site (unlikely except where the board is illegal anyway - see trailers and a few boards). The council is the only forlorn hope.
- Try to undermine the adverting industry through the economic cost of your action. (See Outdoor Advertising Association web site http://www.oaa.org.uk for industry information).
- To help change the public perception of ads, by subverting them or getting them to question why they are.
- A fantastic way to introduce yourself or others to direct action.

Finally...

If you are wondering why bristle is devoting all this space advocating criminal damage, remember, outdoor advertising exists only to intrude into your visual space – space which has been stolen form you. Time to take it back.

Excellent article on why billboards suck see http://www.stayfreemagazine.org/admap/howardgossage.html



Beyond ESF:

"Be the change you want to see"

A good number of anarchists and activists from Bristol and the South West travelled to London to take part in the anti - authoritarian conference, Beyond ESF. With over 80 different workshops and discussions covering a wide range of topics (including local contributions from Bristol anti - casualisation Campaign, Bristol Housing Action Movement, bristle and Kiptik zapatista solidarity group) organising assemblies and direct actions, a free cinema, free gigs and dance nights and food by donation throughout the week, it was anti - capitalism at it's best. Part of the autonomous spaces, five days of self - organised events and actions from 13th - 17th October, it was an inspiration !

Bringing together hundreds of anarchists and anti - capitalists from across Europe (and beyond), it was an awesome example of what can be done with very few resources and a strong collective will to do it ourselves. Everything was done on a voluntary basis, as participants helped out with everything from clearing up and going on the door to cooking and guarding and managing the massive squatted accommodation. There was a real feeling of strength and life as people from all over met, talked, ate, danced, laughed and took action together. Impressively well organised, it showed clearly that we do not need to be "represented", or led, by politicians of any description. Beyond ESF was radically different from, and opposed to the official European Social Forum. Based strongly on egalitarian principles and genuine horizontal organising (i.e. no leaders, celebrity activists, or groups in control), Beyond ESF was a much needed response, and alternative to the fundamental problems and contradictions so glaringly obvious in the official ESF.

The "main event" ESF was dominated by political parties (Socialist Worker Party - yawn) and the Greater London Authority (yes, the government!). The process of organising for and within the ESF was hi-jacked by these authoritarians to serve their own interests and to put a brake on the development of a truly radical social movement. With the £400,000 "donation" from the mayor of London (Ken "anti-anti-capitalist" Livingstone) serious compromises were involved. It came as no surprise when groups with perspectives different to those of the self elected movement leaders, were excluded from the organising process and the event itself. A £30 entrance fee helped to ensure that others were shut out, too. Similarly, the corporate involvement and profit in the event, with over-priced food and refreshments did not go unnoticed. It took a 200 strong stage storming demonstration against the manipulation and control of the ESF to expose the exploitation of the underpaid, over-worked workers at the venue, Alexandra Palace. They spent the weekend running around serving supposedly progressive activists opposed to casualisation and job insecurity. This direct action also succeeded in forcing Ken Livingstone to abandon his plans to address the conference! Apparently the demonstration was met with widespread approval and agreement from many ESF participants when the reasons for the incursion were clearly stated from the stage. In short, the ESF, which began life with guiding principles of direct democracy, inclusion and grassroots participation, has been taken over by the dead hand of the authoritarian left, and looks assured a place in history as yet another reformist, liberal organisation confined to lobbying and ineffective protest. With minimalist "demands" and futile attempts to make capitalism nicer to people, it will totally fail to pose a real threat to this murderous system.

Hopefully, many good people involved in the ESF will realise it's dead end politics and join in with a growing anti-capitalist movement which knows the importance of having no leaders, and a clear rejection of all authority. A genuinely revolutionary movement which continues to fight for a world of autonomy, self-organisation, solidarity and sustainability.

Looking for a radical alternative to the summer's crop of commercial 'green' festivals? Sick of people moaning about the state of the planet, but never doing anything about it? Try fast, effective relief from summer cynicism about direct action... try the Earth First! Summer Gathering.

As always, this year's summer gathering somehow managed to turn this year's wet summer into sunshine in a few acres of green field camping in the Lincolnshire countryside. On arriving at the site, EF! Festival organisers immediately make you feel welcome, with an introduction to the festival, the programme and a quick orientation talk. It's explained straight away that once on site everyone is crew; "if there's a job needs doing, volunteer to do it" from being 'dog organiser' to 'shitpit sanitiser'. This arrangement continues to work amazingly well throughout the week long festival, with barely a plate left unwashed or small child left un-entertained.

An impressive array of workshops are held throughout the week, making the direct action movement in this country somehow seem much bigger than it is, barely represented by the two hundred people at the gathering. Smaller workshops, from climate change to activist psychology are fitted around the big debates about organising for the G8 in 2005 (which was a central theme this year), and of course, the morning meetings where tasks are shared out.

Even seasoned EF!ers I spoke to agreed that at times wall-to-wall politics can get too much. However, plenty of time was given during the day for time out to catch up with old acquaintances and cell-mates, and the range of 'workshops' available generally meant there was something for all tastes. Evenings unsurprisingly were occupied by the 'grassroots' pursuits of drinking, dancing and staggering into the wrong tent, with quality singing and cabaret on Saturday night, lulling everyone into a false sense of security before the lights flicked on, the steel guitars wailed and line dancing was begun. Ouch.

For me, a highlight was a discussion on workshop facilitation (itself well facilitated). It focused on the many useful methods which are out there for facilitating large groups — I can't say up to then I had seen many of them employed, which made it all the more useful. And then there was the large G8 organising meetings. However, breaking it down into smaller workshops at the gathering seems to have provided a timely kick-start for many of the working groups that are now setting their sights on Gleneagles in 2005.

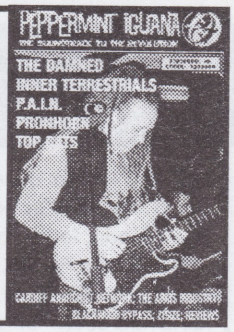
As at any event, how useful the workshops were is down to the individuals who take part. Some perhaps involved too much 'leadership' by people who were supposed to facilitate and not enough creative involvement by everyone else. But thinking about these things is how we learn and build a stronger movement.

Finally, the catering deserves a special mention, with the Anarchist Teapot again providing excellent vegan food, tirelessly serving queues morning, noon and night. Issuing food tokens with a skull and crossbones on them clearly shows they are not ready to enter a market driven economy. So with heads full of crazy ideas and bellies full of chickpeas it's forwards with the resistance in 2005 and beyond.

www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk

zine

Peppermint Iguana no 4



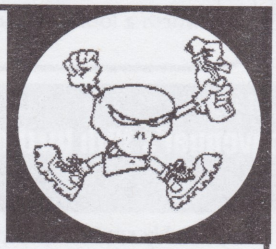
This zine modestly proclaims itself as "The soundtrack to the revolution", which sounds interesting. And it is! Peppermint Iguana is well produced and packed full of interviews with bands like Inner Terrestrials, PAIN and Top Cats, and articles on the arms trade, the Blackwood protests and Cardiff Anarchist Network, together with loads of reviews covering all sorts of books, records and CDs. The reviews section's got something for everyone, refusing to be confined to a single music style, and the articles are well readable, and clear introductions to the issues covered. Sure enough, our suspicions are confirmed, right on the back page, in Black and White, a gurt full-page quote from anarcho grandaddy Proudhon on all the reasons why government is shit (he puts it a bit more poetically!). If the kids get more of this stuff, there's gonna be trouble!

By Barry Cade

12"

King Prawn vs D Product/ Gingerman + Dirty Dred

Running Riot



Running Riot is just another name for the prolific Bristol-based Words of Warning label. WoW were responsible for the release of many crossover jewels. They innovated promoting new genders, blending punk and hip-hop, dub, dance and other styles. They produced Blaggers ITA, Dubwar, King Prawn, DS03, Blender and Gunshot to name but a few. But after a long existence they touched bottom too and eventually they had to pack up. However, they have remained in the background, in contact with all those they promoted and still experimenting with new possibilities. This is another example of their projects: punk meets jungle. One side offers a live d'n'b track by punkdubbers from former Dubwar: drummer Gingerman and singer Dirty Dred. The other side brings together the widely recognised King Prawn and one of Full Cycle producers, D Product (Bristol), who also produces Roni Size's latest album. The result is a bit slow for jungle, but it's a wicked track. The vocals deserve respect all the way through and Al Rumjen's dubby style blends perfectly with the rhythm The sample guitars and the dubby brass lines are the perfect touches for it. We just hope that RR can continue its innovative way and offer us more jewels like this one!

By Gingerbread

guide

A vegan guide to Bristol

Free



Vegan Bristol? Is it real? Are there really enough businesses and organisations to publish a guide? You'll be surprised! Though many of the included addresses are both vegan and vegetarian, the VGTB 2004 shows that there is plenty of choice in our city. The guide ranges from veg shops to restaurants, bookshops, organisations (Soil Association, Spark, Viva, the Vegan Society) and even Kebele. Perhaps too many commercial options and sophisticated and expensive places, while veganism should be more about compassion and sustainability - at least we have Kebele! A glossy, local attempt to break the myth of the impossibility of being vegan, it lacks a political & social perspective: to be vegan is not a trend.

festival

Bring Yourself Fest

Bristol, 3-5 September



"We stand for 'do' 'it' 'yourself'. We stand for fun, we mean stick it to thee man for kicks. We mean that your life is a political vehicle - that you can have your cake and eat it too. We are an anti-consumerist affair - be involved if only to hang out and dance, sing along, be there!" Bring Yourself Fest Website '04 As the title suggests, Bring Yourself Fest was all about 'Bringing Yourself', either with a musical instrument or with an idea for a workshop or just to come and have fun. B.Y.F was a three day event born out of the D.I.Y political/ queer punk scene, comprising of music, workshops, dance parties, open mic, forums for political debate, idea sharing and films, plus sleep-overs in the local scout hut. Best of all it was all totally free, and it rocked! With a host of local bands Bucky, My Two Toms, Vase as well as bands/ performers from all over the world that were all dedicated to taking music out of the usual corporate, alcohol sponsored venues. The strength of the festival was in its atmosphere, there was a great feeling of activists, d.i.y promoters and music fans all meeting up, and forming new nationwide networks, leaving a feeling of 'we can do this too!

By Friend of Noise

gig

Hate G8 Benefit

The Plough

An A-Z of the Hate G8 Benefit Gig: '**A**narchists' punk up the volume at the Plough on a beautiful and Chilly November evening. **D**aredevils of divers-city dive into school disco whilst welcoming the expression of those. **E**nraged by the injustice dealt out by the few. Turntable. **F**rolicking and funking it up with anti-**G**8-Rooving in trepidation. There was: **H**aving it large on the dance floor. Then the 'dogs' began to experiment with a synthesiser. **I**nsinuating that 'even old boys can **J**am together and form a band of what is known as the **K**illing me not so softly 'Drug Sniffing Dogs' their debut revealed as they cried "Give us a fucking break its our first gig!" but we all liked them really because the crowd seemed to be a bunch of **L**overs of life and sound. The **M**usic got louder and the dancing got sillier, a mosh pit was flirted with. A **N**ever ending jive in a jovial atmosphere ensued as the heat was turned up in an **O**rganic exploration of dance and music styles, old school disco, hip hop, salsa, amid **P**olitically polemic décor; Jackie Chan jumping through a bar code, a riot scene as the towers of Mammon fall, **Q**uickened my desire to revolt and dance to the next almighty tune and listen intently to the **R**apping of MC Kim and the crowd nodded their head to **S**ka. I thought to myself, as eclectically as the writing is here; surely **T**ides of change were born in sound and dancing. Some things are **U**niversal, bodies clash like molecules on the dance floor, speaks **V**olumes of heat raised visions that are inked in the sky like the **W**riting on the wall does decree; the **X**odus of Ye Ole' Babylon cometh. **Y**es, yes, yes, all of this is possible in the back room of a pub. Then I left on the **Z**ion train.

By Jacka

newsletter

Gagged

Newsletter of the Gwent Anarchists



This is two sides of A4 and two fingers to power and authority in South Wales and beyond. You get the gist quite early on! It kicks off well with the headline "People of Gwent tell politicians to XXXX off", and a well argued anti-election rant sure to get any anarcho type all hot and bothered. Next up is a court report for a guy convicted and fined for egging the sheriff at the Blackwood eviction. £43 well spent we reckon, and the fine was paid by a benefit gig, by the sounds of it! The prison labour exploiters Wilkinsons get a thorough berating next, closely followed by the villains of the authoritarian European Union. Good to see another D.I.Y. radical newsheet in the area, produced by people who are clear where they stand, and not afraid to be up-front about their politics. This is well worth a look. Contact: gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk

by Barry Cade

gig

Scavenger's 10th birthday party'



Hands up who's been in a band that's lasted 10 years? Thought so. Worth a party then, and the Scavenger's 10th anniversary certainly was that. Impeccably set in a hilltop barn surrounded by breathtaking views of the Wye, and forested slopes on a forecast-defyingly bright weekend. The barn, complete with bar knocking out cider made on site, yummy veggie food, pool table in the straw, and even a puppy chasing a chicken across the stage at one point, was an ideal setting for an eclectic mix of live bands and DJ action. There were even badgers around to scare people who were sneakily pissing in the woods. Bands included some local young spiky-haired hardcore punk outfits, Wilma (yee ha style country), Itchy Tasty (loud genre-defying orchestration), Malarkey (accomplished eastern Europeanish folksters, Spanner (mobilising ska-punk), Cupid Stunts (Midlands diva punks), and of course the Scavengers in their various guises, past, present and sub-future. And a tribute act with masks of the birthday crew. DJs, including the Pointless Sisters, kept us boogying with a right old mix of disco, punk and even the 'I'm a wanker' song. A top family camping weekend, and here's to the next 10 years.

by Barry Cade

demo CD

Spanner'Gate Crashers'

£5



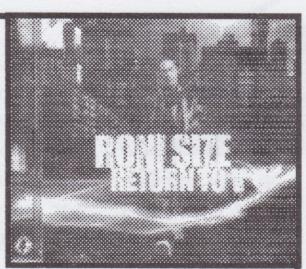
Finally the awaited demo of a band who has played benefits for almost every campaign in this magazine: Spanner! The art work is tidy for being just a demo. Wicked production and a very fresh sound. Natural. A pity the lead voice sounds a bit weak on some tracks but the choruses sound even more powerful than live. No complications with the music, basic but direct,with some nice dubby trumpet effects between vocals. However what counts here is wicked lyrics, on subjects from a more updated point of view than those old punk tapes. The CD is titled Gate crashers (which is an excellent name, too), because the main subject is borders, fences and those who are trapped by them, fleeing war and holed up in concentration camps like Woomera or Yarl's Wood. But it's also about, and for, those who tear down the fences and trash the gates. Direct action released many imprisoned refugees and forced the closure of Woomera detention camp. Rest in pieces Woomera - we'll pogo on your ruins. Other wicked tunes deal with autonomy for this planet's people and disgust for those who see themselves as all powerful for wearing an uniform. And for those Spanner fans, lyrics are included so you can sing along with some enraging songs against this system. A pity that the CD is only a quarter of an hour long and that they don't offer us anything else (what about some digital hardcore remixes or some dub versions?....). Available at Greenleaf Bookshop and Kebele.

by Clandestino

CD

Roni Size: 'Return to V'

Full Cycle



A new job by Bristol's d'n'b meister. The word to describe this new CD is 'predictable'. However, it does have a few excellent tracks. Size has chosen in this new album, like in previous ones, to stick to his style, to his rhythms (though there is a track –just the one! – on a hip-hop rhythm!). He is not as adventurous as some of his cohorts – he focuses on his trademark. Obviously, all the way through you can appreciate his level – plenty of details. The album goes on blending each track as a DJ would do. Yes, it's uniform. The difference is made by the many guests taking part in the project. Some of them are a great surprise. Track 9 is 'Rise Up' with Swetie Irie adding some ragga vocals to the d'n'b – Excellent! So is 'No trouble', using Marley's famous line. But track 12 (No More) is even better, with Beverley Knight adding some melody to the thing and Dynamite MC adding style. D MC proves why he is the MC supporting Roni Size in this CD presentation: hip-hop style and solidity. His lyrics are about making a difference, about joining together to make it happen, about possibilities and about being positive, about fighting for a solution: revolution. And then another track (also good and full of energy) and then there's 'Sign' with this woman, Jocelyn Brown: woooowww! Pure gospel/soul style on jungle rhythm. Superb! And the lyrics remind us of times when singing was part of the struggle: 'Sing for freedom, Sign for peace'... and 'Don't listen to the leaders'. The CD is closed by MC Navigator adding another wicked rap. As we said: 18 tracks keeping a very defined style all the way through the record and some touches of geniality.

by Clandestino

event

Marlon Thomas - 10 years on

MalcolmX Centre, 16-10-04



Marlon Thomas's family & friends celebrated the 10th anniversary of the brutal racist attack, which left him wheelchair bound, with a day/evening event. The day had a family atmosphere, with Marlon & his family, plus close friends (some of whom were also attacked that day). The media, local MP, and people significant to the case (such as Paul Stephenson), also attended. They enjoyed displays, a PA providing music, food and a popular bouncing castle. In the evening was a top line up with Marlon's brother Rudy Lee's mates heading it - the Smith&Mighty/More Rockers musicians Peter D Rose and Rob Smith, playing superb mixes and full on d'n'b with their dubby approach. Plus there was total local talent - including the All Stars. Afro Saxon included members who were also attacked that sad night, and their tune about Bristol, based on The Special's 'Ghost Town', was well smart. The MC for Ghetto Force Movement & their system, also attacked that night, spoke about their and Marlon's story. A big surprise was Blackout J.A. Not in terms of talent of course, but in his contribution for the night. He touched the audience's feelings and provoked response. He got on stage to scream against injustice, against Marlon's injustice. He screamed, and of course that was something the audience identified with totally, and responded to. This was a showcase of awareness, of remembering, of community, and of pure local talent – St Paul's getting together with Marlon & his amazing family for a memorial, touching event. After all that they have been through, they still keep that pure smile. Keep it up!



By Martin

gig

Zona Marginal

11th November 2004 St Werburgh's Community Centre / The Plough



(continues from page 5) And after being told to leave, Zona Marginal's 3 members stood up and got everyone clapping to create a base for their rap, and even got the audience singing the chorus: "War here. War there. When is it going to stop?" The rap spoke about the on-going, undeclared, war in Colombia. Before rapping they mentioned a socialist candidate who said that they spoke more with a rap more than he could in an hour! What was true was that ZM spoke in a rap with more eloquence and fluidity than in the near 2-hour talk. Rapping can be a very powerful way to reach out to young people, and to introduce them to radical political ideas. Those who could follow their Spanish lyrics responded to their points about Plan Colombia, the effects of imperialism and capitalism, the need of fighting in communities, etc. Superb! It was a pity there was no gig as such organised, but later some caught them rapping over their bases at a party at The Plough (Easton) – they rocked! Songs about the effects of privatisation in Colombian society: 'aviso al público de la República que los servicios públicos…' ("warning to the audience of the Republic (of Colombia) that the public services won't be privatised!). And an improvisation rant about fighting together, joining efforts and how our struggle is their struggle. Their struggle? These are guys whose relatives have been murdered, who face murder for signing such things. Such words just remind me that I have to be more modest about what I do and keep on! La lucha sigue!

By Clandestino

BandAid20 – Do they know it's Christmas? This sounds crap, worse than 20 years ago, but it'll still be an international bestseller, raising ?millions for people in Africa. So that's alright then, isn't it? The BandAid20 website recognises that 20 years after they first sang for change, it's changed…for the worse. They go on to ask people to buy the record to save lives now, and to put pressure on Blair and the other G8 leaders in 2005. BandAid appear to understand that Africa is a political issue. Sadly they believe it should be left to the world leaders to resolve the problem. That is the problem! BandAid has moved on from Ethiopia 20 years ago, although upto 5 million Ethiopians each year still rely on food aid to prevent starvation. Now they want to focus on, and raise awareness about, the Sudan. But in Sudan hunger is caused by the displacement of people due to civil war, a war in which the Sudanese Govt. is armed by Russia & China, who have both invested heavily in exploiting Sudan's natural resources. Russia is part of the G8, China is in the G20, can we really appeal to the leaders of these nations to solve a problem they are helping to create? The world is rich enough to feed the world, but it won't while we rely on our leaders to resolve the problems, because they are a part of the problem.

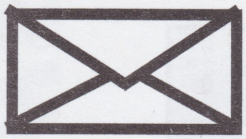


By Mi

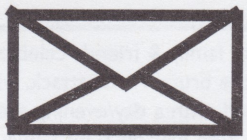
bristle's reviews cover political culture in Bristol and the South West. If you publish, release or organise anything suitable for these pages please send us a copy.



Pure coffee grown in lands liberated by the Zapatistas. Money made from this coffee is reinverted in the Zapatistas communities. This way they earn three times what they would selling it to coyoteros. **Available from usual places...**







Recently overheard in the bristle office - "Wahey! We got a letter! Look gang! (pause)...Oh... shit!"

Dear Bristle,

Just thought I would write a quick note about the issue 17 graffiti page. There was a photo of some graffiti saying "F**K FOOTBALL, WE STILL WENT TO WAR, THATS DISAPPOINTING !!!" and a picture of two 'football fans' with the caption "Football fans take a break between matches to cry for the latest victims of Fallujah".

I thought this was pretty patronising for several reasons. First of all it assumes that if you like to play or watch football that you don't give a shit about the war in Iraq. This is about as stupid as saying that people who are into gardening, ice skating, Tai Chi or any activity don't care about the war in Iraq. How do you expect to get any person outside your (political) subculture to take Bristle seriously if you put patronising stuff like this in. It also puts out the idea that the writers of Bristle have the moral high ground whilst the rest of us thick bastards don't care about anything. This is a sure way to piss people off and stop your ideas being even looked at.

Most football fans are aware of things like the effect that rampant capitalism has had on the game, so why not put "FUCK THE PREMIER LEAGUE" or "FUCK SKY SPORTS". Don't just attack the game itself, because that is a little pathetic. Just because your sub-culture doesn't like kicking a ball around doesn't mean its wrong for other people to be into it. People are cynical about politics for many reasons, one of them is "high and mighty" activists/politicos who think they are clever, telling them what to think and then fucking off to nice middle class lives when they get bored of doing it.

Overcoming this means realising that peoples
own lives, problems and experiences are as important as your ideas (even the evil football !). In fact most of the time they are more important, as (if you believe in mass social change) then it is these people who are going to do it. Only by understanding this can political ideas like anarchism or whatever be really tested. Otherwise they will stay as sub-culture or fashion.

At least the Bristolian is trying to reach people outside of the anarchist political ghetto.

That's it for now, An Easton Cowboy

Here's a letter from a friend imprisoned in Portugal. We've had to edit it a bit coz it was an epic – sorry! Nicky would well appreciate letters, so get scribbling...

Dear Bristle,

I want to thank and congratulate you, Bristle, for your article on writing letters to prisoners issue 16 which included some damn good ideas for letter contents you were spot on in saying letters provide the high light of the day / week . Thanks are due, also, to some Bristol based friends as well as others spread throughout Europe for the letters I ve received already, helping keep me sane in this nightmare of monotony! Having lived a life with as few restraints as I could get away with... words cannot convey how much of a culture shock it s proved to be being sent to prison. I m no political prisoner or human rights campaigner, per se sure I ve been involved in demos and marches to dif fering degrees in the past but I m not what you might call a hardcore activist.... I seem to have been fast tracked through the in justice system I might have a trial around February time 6 months is nothing in Portugal, apparently which is just as well, without the support of my Bristol based letter writing friends I would ve gone mad long since! It was thanks to one of these friends that i was sent a couple of issues of your highly informative, eminently enjoyable and downright readable publication issues 16 and 17 so far which, I have to say, have helped me pass a fair bit of bang up time and provided a few good additions to the collage that my locker door has become yes sorry, I cut bits out of the direct action special to stick up! ...

They can t stop me being me, can t stop me having friends, can t reinvent what I believe, can t make me follow trends They can t rob me of my soul or destroy my faith in I, can t freeze my spirit till I m sore or make me accept the lie

They can t twist me into what they want, can t crush me to the floor, Cos in my own unique way I m fucking hardcore!!

Niki B. No. 1, EPR Odemira, Avenida Sacadura Cabral, 7630 - 128 Odemira PORTUGAL.

bristle's response:

This was not meant as an attack on footie fans, but the whole spectacle of corporate football which does have a tendency to keep people safely in the position of spectator. We do not, however, suggest that anyone who is into football is either apathetic or stupid, and it's unfortunate that it was interpreted in this way. The original intention was to make a comment on how football (you could substitute television, celebrities, consumerism or any other aspect of pop culture) can act to divert our attention and create allegiances which are harmless and unchallenging (or even helpful) to this fucked up system. It's a game of two halves, as they say, and "Support our team" can easily translate into "Support our boys" as the flags come out again and it's time for war. No, before you sharpen your studs, we are not calling all footie fans warmongers, but the nationalism and competition fostered by things like football is undeniably good for government and the capitalist war machine. None of us think football in itself is evil. But we do feel the need to attack "the game", that is, the bigger game played by mass media corporations and the ruling elite to keep us glued to our TV sets - and off the streets. It's difficult to put these ideas across with just a photo and caption, and we do accept that we could have chosen our words better.

On the subject of assumptions, it seems like you've got a few of your own, Cowboy! Some of us like playing or watching football, some of us don't. So, what subculture does that put us in? Can we be in more than one? Next, you imply we're "high and mighty" activists, which is annoying, because those people wind us up too! As a collective we've got our ideas, but We don't tell people what to think, and I'm pretty sure none of us has the option of retreating into comfortable middle class lives. We've seen and been through enough to know that we hate this system and will fight it for the rest of our lives. Some of our ideas might be different to yours, but does that mean we're all just "middle class tossers"? Who's patronising who here? We agree that anarchism cannot be confined to fashion or subculture, so we're making efforts to get out more! We have a lot of respect for the Bristolian paper and it's efforts to reach a wider readership. Some of us help to distribute the Bristolian. To conjure up, as a parting shot, some sort of competition between bristle and the Bristolian is divisive and way off the mark. We are on the same side.

Anyway, thanks for taking the time to get off (or on) your arse and write to us. We don't all think the same, and we're not

Avon Organic Group
54 Castlegate House, School Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 4ND
0117 971 9077
avonorganicgroup@onetel.com

Bath Cycle Campaign
Regular meetings take place on the third Monday of each month, upstairs at the Rummer (Grand Parade), 7.30. To subscribe, send a blank email to bath-cycling-campaign-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk, or visit: http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/Bath-Cycling-Campaign

Bath Earth First!
PO Box 426, Bath BA1 2ZD.

Bath Hunt Saboteurs Association
PO Box 426, Bath BA1 2ZD.
07734 968414
bathsabs@fsmail.net

Bath Animal Action
PO Box 426, Bath BA1 2ZD.

Bath Stop the War Coalition
c/o 40 Kipling Ave, Bath BA2 4RB.
www.bathstopwar.org.uk
Postmaster@bathstopwar.org.uk

Bristol Activists Forum (Bristol Activists accepts posts on a wide range of political issues and events). To join send a blank email to:
bristol-activists-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Bristol Animal Rights Network
Box 53, Greenleaf Bookshop, 32 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.
Bristolar@webtribe.net

Bristol Anti-Casualisation Campaign (BACC),
Box 4, Greenleaf Bookshop, 82 Colston St, Bristol, BS1 5BB.
bristolacc@hotmail.com
Ansaphone: 0779 2018881

Bristol Cycling Campaign
Box 60, 82 Colston Street BS1 5BB.
http://bristolcyclingcampaign.org.uk

Bristol Defend the Asylum Seekers Campaign
Box 41, 82, Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5BB
www.asylumbristol.org.uk/
asylumbristol@hotmail.com

Bristol Dissent (campaigning against July 2005 G8 Summit in Scotland)
Box 102, 82 Colston St, Bristol, BS1 5BB
http://www.dissent.org.uk(national website)
dissentbristol@subsection.org.uk

Bristol Housing Action Movement
Box 56, 82 Colston St, BS1 5BB.
0795 725 4045

Bristol Hunt Saboteurs
Box 104, 82 Colston St. Bristol BS1 5BB
07734864572

Bristol Indymedia (submit your own news and use the calendar to list events)
http://bristol.indymedia.org
(Also UK Indymedia - http://www.indymedia.org.uk)

Bristol International Solidarity Movement Action and Resistance for Justice in Palestine
www.ism-bristol.org.uk/

Bristol Nestle Resistance
http://www.geocities.com/bristolresist
emmagoldman@hushmail.com

Bristol Permaculture Group
10-12 Picton St, Montpelier, Bristol BS5 6QA.
0117 955 3959
BSPermaculture@postmark.net
http://www.bristolfoe.org.uk/bpg/

Bristol Prisoners' Support Group (ABC)
Box 42, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB
http://www.geocities.com/bristol_abc/
bristol_abc@yahoo.co.uk

Bristol Stop the War Coalition
Box 45, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.

Bristolian bi-weekly news sheet
Available across Bristol and at
http://www.bristolian.freeservers.com/

Cardiff Anarchist Network
bozavine@yahoo.co.uk
www.geocities.com/bozavine/can/

Castle Cary contact for Genetics Engineering Network
01749 860689
louise@ukonline.co.uk

Chiapaslink
Box 79, Greenleaf Bookshop, 82 Colston St, Bristol, BS1 5BB.
http://www.chiapaslink.ukgateway.net/
chiapaslink@yahoo.com

The Cube Cinema
Dove Street South (Off Kings Square), Bristol BS2 8JD.
0117 907 4190
www.cubecinema.com
cubeadmin@cubecinema.com

Dartmoor EF!
PO Box 77, Totnes, TQ9 5ZJ.

Easton Cowboys
www.eastoncowboys.org.uk
eastoncowboys@hotmail.com

Eco-Village Network UK (EVNUK)
PO Box 1410, Bristol BS99 3JP
0117 373 0346

Enrager.net (anarchist and libertarian newswire, with a wide range of discussion forums. South West Forums)
http://enrager.net/web/britain/southwest To submit news/articles:
http://enrager.net/web/

Euskal Info (Basque Information)
PO Box 50, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.
www.euskalinfo.org.uk
euskalinfo@kebele.com

Glastonbury GE Group
01458 834787

Greenleaf Bookshop
82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.
0117 921 1369

Queer Mutiny Group (Bristol)
ueermutinybristol@yahoo.co.uk
c/o Here, 108 Stokes Croft, Bristol.
0117 9422222

Gwent Anarchists
PO Box 70, Newport NP20 5XX
gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk

i-Contact (alternative video network)
c/o 76 Mina Rd, St Werburghs, Bristol BS2 9TX.
0117 940 0636
http://www.videonetwork.org

Kebele Kulture Projekt
14 Robertson Road, Easton, Bristol BS5 6JY.
0117 939 9469
www.kebele.org
info@kebele.org

Kiptik (Zapatista Solidarity Group)
Box 79, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.
www.kiptik.buz.org
kiptik@eudoramail.com

Leftism (Dance nights for local causes)
Third Friday night in the month at Porter Butt,
London Road, Bath
http://www.leftism.co.uk
leftismbath@aol.com

Mapuche International Link
6 Lodge Street, Bristol BS1 5LR.
0117 927 9391
http://www.members.aol.com/mapulink

Marlon Thomas Campaign
Grosvenor Road, St. Pauls, Bristol.

Pandora Project (DU)
http://www.pandoraproject.org/index.html
pduproject@yahoo.co.uk

Set up for Life (Gary Mills and Tony Poole Campaign)
PO Box 4739, Birmingham B11 1LG
07814 793 530
setupforlife@hotmail.com

Shellfish Network
Box 66, Greenleaf Bookshop, Colston St.
Bristol BS1 5BB.
0117 942 5524

South Devon EF!
PO Box 77, Totnes, TQ9 5ZJ.

Solidarity Bristol (part of Solidarity Federation),
Box 43, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.
www.solfed.org.uk
mail@solidaritybristol.org.uk.

Somerset Against GE
01749 813787

Southside Food Co-op
Provides locally grown vegetables or fruit at wholesale prices in Twerton, Whiteway and Southdown areas of Bath. Home delivery or collection from 86 Twerton High Street.
Tel: Viv on 01225 787924 (or 01225 481269 on Weds) Vivt@envolve.co.uk

St. David's Wood Campaign (Direct action against road building in South Wales)
07708420446 (if no answer send text)

Stroud Valleys' Anarchists
www.geocities.com/svanarchossvanarchos
svanarchos@yahoo.co.uk

SWAN Network PO Box 70, Newport, NP1 0YD swangroup@yahoo.co.uk

Swindon Against GMOs 01793 790438
sbirley@gn.apc.org

Totnes Genetix Group
c/o PO Box 77, Totnes, TQ9 5ZJ.
info@togg.org

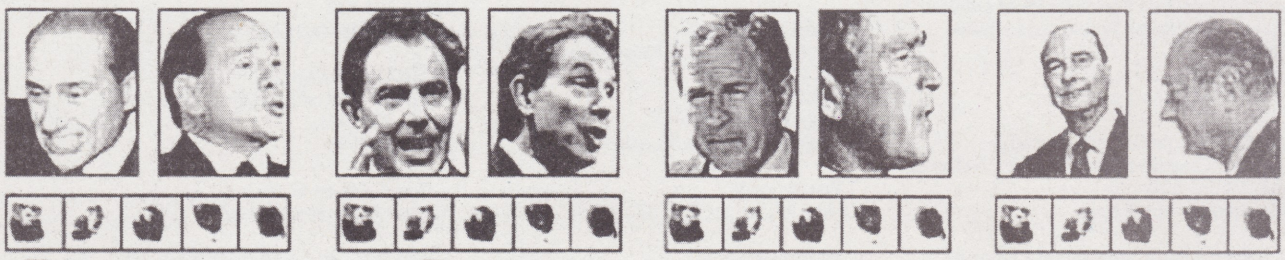
Transform Drug Policy Foundation
Easton Business Centre, Felix Road, Bristol BS5 OHE.
0117 941 5810
http://www.tdpf.org.uk/
info@tdpf.org.uk

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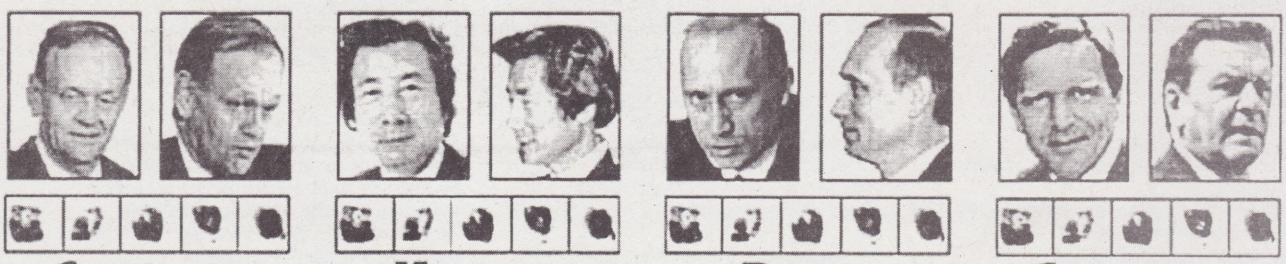
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(west killer)



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(east killer)

for crimes against humanity

for details about rewards, etc contact Bristol G8 Dissent !: Box 102, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB or dissentbristol@subsection.org.uk

bristle